

Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting – Catskill Town Hall
July 7, 2020 6:30 pm

Present:	Dale Finch,	Supervisor
	Jared Giordiano,	Councilman
	Patrick McCulloch,	Councilman
	Dawn Scannapieco,	Councilwoman
	Paul Vosburgh,	Councilman

Supervisor Finch opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced all board members. The first item on the agenda is the swimming hole in Palenville. He was present at the swimming hole on Sunday around 7 pm and has a decent understanding of what happened. Councilwoman Scannapieco stated this is like never before in her 50 years of life. Supervisor Finch stated he spoke with DEC, Hunter Police, and Greene County Sheriff. There were two cars on Saturday and the State Police had cars there too. Supervisor Finch turned the meeting over to public comment limiting comment to 3 to 5 minutes so all who wished to be heard could.

Michael Sprague spoke of his concern with the swimming hole and he would like the board to consider no use after dark. There needs to be an ordinance. There was partying on the bridge. There was no social distancing. He is unsure where so many people came from. He has never seen such a problem with people coming here as of now. Parking was everywhere. People were confrontational. The State Police were called.

Supervisor Finch stated he spoke with the Town of Hunter and they are experiencing the same problems. Tow vendors do not want to tow vehicles. It is a tough situation. Maybe a boot could be a deterrent but who would enforce.

Mr. Sprague stated the water is trickling and there were hundreds of people there, none wearing a mask or any social distancing. He is worried about COVID.

Elyse Riscatti stated North Lake is at 50% capacity and they were at maximum capacity at noon. She was informed there was a huge cleanup and there were 90 bags of garbage. It is disheartening.

Jennifer Gerard stated her daughter and son-in-law picked up roofing nails and screws in the parking lot. She would like to see the creek close as there is contamination increasing every single day. Supervisor Finch stated the Sheriff investigated the nails and screws. As far as closure of the stream that decision is for DEC and NYS. Ms. Gerard asked who owned the section of land by the bridge. That person will be liable and it is only a matter of time before something bad will happen. The bridge is the issue.

Mr. Sprague stated the board is the governing body. The people are fed up. We need a solution. Gabby who lives near Minkalis' property stated there were 40 to 50 people there. State Police were contacted and they stated they couldn't enforce. People are trespassing as they get out of the creek and DEC states it is private property.

John Karch stated if it is private property and you tell someone they are trespassing then the State Police should respond. He has had the State Police and Encon evict people from the creek many times.

John Hansel stated there were trucks parked on the bridge and people jumping out of them into the creek. You could see it from the firehouse. The solution is for the state to fence around the site where people jump off of. A suicide fence should be installed. Once that is done then the attraction is gone. Councilman McCulloch stated the County owns the bridge.

Mike Roberts stated there was a time when we would kick everyone's ass if not appropriate. There were people out in the middle of the road. People screaming and being rude. You cannot drive past without getting harassed. This is our neighborhood and people are upset. There is all kinds of crazy shit going on all hours of the night. Please close the parking lot near the Veterans Memorial. Please put up signs no swimming allowed. Please close off access to the swimming hole where the Town owns.

Joan Abrahamsen stated the stream was used as a bathroom with, feces, tampons. The DOH should be contacted.

Supervisor Finch stated enforcement is an issue. Mr. Karch stated the rules are not posted by the State. Palenville is becoming a dumping ground for Hunter. Mr. Baldwin stated it blows his mind how compounded this problem is.

Supervisor Finch asked if there was any further comment. Zane Cheek stated he owns property adjoining the towns. This has created a tremendous burden on his quiet enjoyment. Everyday people are trespassing. He feels his safety is threatened. He would like to see an auxiliary or adjunct group of people authorized by the Sheriff to act on their behalf to issue tickets to people, like a neighborhood watch. Supervisor Finch stated he can speak to the Sheriff about peace officers. Mr. Cheek would also like DOT to review the light at the intersection of Route 23 and 32A as there is an issue making a left onto 32A.

Supervisor Finch asked if there was any other comment. An audience member would like to propose an emergency closure. Residents cannot even drive to their homes it is so crowded. Emergency vehicles cannot get through. The bridge is the problem. Supervisor Finch stated that fencing is the most practical. He will ask the Sheriff for additional patrols. Barbara Erceg stated she would like to see signage. Jennifer Gerard would like the town to consider temporary closure, at least during the pandemic.

Councilman McCulloch stated we could close off access to the creek temporarily. This has been an issue every year. Councilman Giordiano concurred and stated to place boulders. Supervisor Finch stated we will have an orange fence barricade the area temporarily.

Dave Kukle, Town of Hunter Councilman, stated the same issues are in Hunter at the Clove. There is a meeting taking place tomorrow to discuss it. Sometimes you need to shut something down to make it better.

After some further conversation, the board agreed to fencing and temporarily closing off access to the creek on town owned land. The County will be contacted regarding Tannery Bridge. Supervisor Finch appreciated everyone's comments and he continued with the agenda.

MINUTES:

Catskill Town Board Monthly Meeting	June 2, 2020
Government Operations Meeting	June 12, 2020
Catskill Town Board Committee Meeting	June 17, 2020

Motion: Councilman McCulloch Second: Councilman Giordiano, carried.

RESOLUTION:

Resolution #26-2020 on motion of Councilman Giordiano, second by Councilwoman Scannapieco authorizing the second half of the Cementon Sewer Billing. Adopted Vote: 5 Yes

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Theresa McGee Ward regarding use of Senior Center for alternative location for cooking meals for the Senior Nutrition Program.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Garbage Company – *tabled until the July 15th meeting.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Vincent Seeley – economic development. *Mr. Seeley is unable to attend tonight's meeting. He has a LDC in the Village would like to see if the Town would be interested in participating. We would need more information.*

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Supervisor Finch stated employees received his notice of the travel ban and that the 14 day quarantine is unpaid.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Izzo stated he and Pat had discussed a Veterans Ceremony on Veterans Day to honor our Veterans and Elizabeth sent an email from the County they are holding their Veterans Ceremony the Saturday before and if we wish to participate with them or hold or own ceremony. He would like the board to consider which day they wish to have the ceremony.

He also recommended the board adopt another resolution for emergency order under COVID and state the areas off limit and post along the fence line. He also recommended contacting the County to see if they are willing to place barriers on the bridge so people could not jump off it. A sign should also be placed on the abandon section of Malden Ave that there is no admittance. You can ban access from the Tannery Bridge to Malden Avenue by resolution.

Supervisor Finch stated we should do this. *Resolution #27-2020 on motion of Councilwoman Scannapieco, second by Supervisor Finch, for the temporary closure of public access on Town-owned*

property along Woodstock Avenue and the installation of fencing and "No Trespassing" signage by the Highway Superintendent due to various concerns including COVID-19. Adopted 5 Yes

Supervisor Finch stated he will enact a new executive order tomorrow. Mr. Izzo further recommended the Supervisor send a letter to the Governor and Commissioner of DEC that an executive order was issued for this closure to show the Town being proactive about this issue and to put them on notice.

With no further comment a motion to end the meeting was made by Councilman Vosburgh second by Councilwoman Scannapieco. Meeting ended 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Izzo
Town Clerk