

Central County News

GRAFTON

Town Board Likes Entertainment Ideas

by Doug La Rocque

Linda Laveway, Cathy Goyer and Betsy Colvin have been busy putting together ideas for a town picnic and a music night for town residents. They made their presentation to the Town Board meeting on Monday, May 10, one that was well received by both the Board and the residents in attendance.

Up first is a town picnic at the Greywacke Meadows on Dunham Road (sometimes referred to as "the wedding barn"). It is slated for Saturday, June 5 with the town (mostly through donations) providing the hamburgers and hot dogs, and those in attendance asked bring a side dish. The trio of ladies talked to the Board about renting a large grill for the event, but have decided to ask residents to bring some grills to the site for the day. If you have a grill you could loan and perhaps volunteer to cook on, please contact one of the ladies or email *The Eastwick Press* at news@eastwickpress.com. We will make sure they know.

The next event booked is a performance by the Yankee Doodle Band that is scheduled for July 10 at the former Grafton Elementary School Building. More details on these and other possible events will follow.

Any funding the town may end up providing for these events will come out of the Senior Citizens yearly donation. Since the Merry Makers have not met this year because of COVID-19 and did not anticipate meeting until the fall at the earliest, the Board felt it is appropriate to use some of the \$4,500 set aside for the Merry Makers, since they will not be using much if any of the money. While open to all town residents, the aforementioned events were first broached as senior events.

Speaking of the Merry Makers, some members of the club will hold a meeting for all on Wednesday, May 19 at 6 pm at the Town Hall, but please, no covered dishes.

You Talked Yourself Into It

So impressive were these ladies, the Town Board decided to create an entertainment committee.

The ole three guesses as to who they appointed comes into play here. If your guesses were Ms. Laveway, Ms. Goyer and Ms. Colvin, you guessed right.

It's All Accounted For

For nearly a year, Board members have discussed where donations made in the form of deposit bottles at the Recycling Center and earmarked for the town's youth programs have really gone, and in fact, just how much money we are talking about. Town Supervisor Ingrid Gundrum told the Board at the Monday meeting a separate budget line has been created to account for these donations, and the most recent collections have been deposit in this line. She also said they have determined there were previously about \$6,000 in donations, they were simply deposited to the general fund, and are now part of the town's unexpended fund balance. Town Attorney Phil Danaher advised the

funds be moved used as soon as possible.

The Paperwork Is In The Mail

The question is, which mail, or more specifically, which email. For several years the town has been waiting for \$150,000 from a state grant to pay for the now more than year old (new) ambulance. Supervisor Gundrum has repeatedly claimed all documents requested by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) have been submitted, and has been expecting the check "any day now." The problem is, "any day now" has never come. Councilman Frank Lewandusky said earlier this year, in his conversations with DASNY, he learned there is missing paperwork.

Attorney Danaher volunteered to use his contacts to get to the bottom of it. He reported at the meeting he had learned DASNY has apparently started using a different email account. It's likely Ms. Gundrum sent the information to an account they no longer have. Mr. Danaher said he will work with the town to have the missing documents refiled to the correct people, and he is hopeful they money can then be released.

Will There Be A Marijuana Dispensary?

Under the recently approved Marijuana Regulation and Tax Act, all municipalities in New York have until the end of the year to decide if they will not permit such a dispensary within the town, village or city limits. If they opt out, they lose out on a share of the 3% tax monies that could come their way. According to Attorney Danaher, if they do nothing, they cannot stop a dispensary, but if none is built in the town, they apparently would not see any of that dedicated sales tax money anyway. They only get a piece of the pie if a dispensary is actually opened, and then their share of the tax money is predicated on what percentage of sales in the county that dispensary generates. Mr. Danaher indicated there is no rush to act, but Board Members should reach out for the pulse of the community on it and perhaps look to take any possible action they feel is appropriate toward the end of summer.

Other Developments

The Board was looking to give Highway Superintendent Jarod Bouchard a credit card with a \$500 to \$1,000 limit, but was advised they need a policy in place first. The Grafton Rescue Squad reported they answered 36 calls during the month of April, 23 of them being in the daytime hours, and they missed one. Grafton Lakes State Park will sponsor a Grafton and Park themed art show, starting on July 1, when the park celebrates their 50th anniversary. It is possible that the price for the day will be dropped back to 1971 levels, just 25 cents per car load. Those over age 62 are always free.

Other items discussed that evening were maintenance of the Gazebo in the Town Park, Post Office Roof Repair, the Town Hall fire alarm system, town emails and upgrades to the town's phone system.

Resolutions

The Board approved Town Clerk Vicki Burdick as the keeper of passwords for internet, phone systems and emails, as well as keys. They approved a new contract with Rensselaer County for use of the Senior Center, an upgrade to the town internet service and a request for audit services.

We Goofed

In our report on the April Town Board meeting, we credited a statement made about an extra \$16,000 in sales tax revenues as being made by Supervisor Gundrum, when it was really made by Councilman Lewandusky. We apologize to both.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Phyllis Grace Decker.

BRUNSWICK

The Country's Newest Citizen



At a naturalization ceremony on April 23, Canisia Quinn became a citizen of the United States. Canisia is originally from the Philippines. County Legislator Dan Casale is acquainted with the Canisia and her husband Mike, and presented her with a Legislative Commendation and an American Flag to mark the occasion. The couple reside in Brunswick. Photo provided.

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