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CRSE · Concerned Residents of Southeast

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From: "Lynne Eckardt" <midfarm@bestweb.net>

Date: Fri May 28, 2004 2:18 pm

Subject: Southeast Town Board Recap

Hello All,

The Town Board of Southeast had its regular meeting last night.

As always these are not official minutes. Official minutes will be available from the Town Clerk on June 10th. And as always, the comments that follow are my own.

In the interest of time I have edited to items on the agenda that may be of interest to CRSE members. The Town board had some good ideas last night which will become evident.

If you're pressed for time focus on: Lake Tonetta. If you lean towards the ironic check out the 'roadside plantings'. Always something for everyone...

PARTIAL AGENDA:

7. STARR RIDGE MANOR: Water District Improvement. The Board voted 5-0 to authorize improvements.

8. WETLAND PERMIT- Mr. Paul Jonke, 128 Joes Hill Road. The Board voted 5-0 to grant a wetland permit to Mr. Jonke. This permit had been recommended by the Conservation Commission.

10. RESOLUTION: HOME RULE: Authorizing letter to Assemblyman Willis Stephens and Senator Leibell for Home Rule. Passed 5-0. This will allow the town to increase the current distance of discharging a firearm from 500 feet to 1000 feet of a residence.

11. PERFORMANCE BOND: Ace Endico. The Board voted 5-0 to establish a performance bond in the amount of \$2,019,000 for Ace Endico.

12. PERFORMANCE BOND: Terravest Phase II. The Board voted 5-0 establishing a performance bond in the amount of \$1,689,200.

15. RESOLUTION: authorizing the Town Supervisor and/or Highway Superintendent to submit the Stormwater Management Program annual report

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to the NYSDEC. Passed 5-0

STUDY FOR TONETTA LAKE: In an item not on the agenda the Town Board voted 5-0 to authorize that (not more than) \$15,000 be spent on a study of Lake Tonetta.

Supervisor Dunford then mentioned working closely with the Highway Superintendent re. improving the town's appearance. Two additional employees have been hired for the summer and part of their duties will be to plant 'roadside/gateway' areas.

A summer concert series at Electrazone Field was mentioned. Councilman Bonanno mentioned that information will be available on the town website. Call Ray Knox at the Recreation Department for further details: 279-3915.

An 'Open Space' Committee is now being formed. Interested parties should submit resumes to: Supervisor Dunford 1 Main Street, Brewster, NY 10509.

COMMENTS:

STARR RIDGE WATER DISTRICT:

On May 5th I spoke with Michael Levine (special district manager) who was very helpful. The renovations, (including a new roof on the operation's building) will be \$262,700. This will also include a 'stand-by generator- so if power goes out residents will still have water. The quarterly increase to the homeowner will be \$55 -60 which seems minimal although it will approximately double current water rates.

WETLAND PERMIT: The permit granted to Mr. Jonke (former Tax Assessor for the town) hopefully there is wording written into this re. keeping the present driveway pervious.

LAKE TONETTA STUDY:

Thanks to the Town Board for authorizing this money. However, it sounds like there will not be enough for a thorough study but rather a limited look at permitting for the sterile grass carp (which has been approved by the Advisory Board).

Although a study was done in 1989 much may have changed. Fifteen years is, after all, a long time. We really need know what effect storm water run-off has on the lake as well as how much septic failure there might be. Then, hopefully, Lake Tonetta might avoid some of the nightmares befalling other Putnam County lakes.

The interminable time line here has also been harmful . The original Informational Public Meeting on Lake Tonetta was held last August 7th. Residents put their name on a list to be considered for The Lake Tonetta Advisory Committee. The committee was finally appointed on November 20, '03 and their first meeting didn't take place until January. As I understand it, it is now late in the season to begin a thorough study.

The Lake Tonetta Advisory Board has been working hard since their first meeting. One would hope that under Councilman Johnson's guidance funding for a a thorough base line Lake Study will be forthcoming. The residents of Southeast deserve nothing less.

IMPROVING THE APPEARANCE OF SOUTHEAST:

There was something delightfully ironic about passing Performance Bonds for Ace Endico and Terravest II on the same night that roadside plantings (to enhance the town's appearance) was discussed. The small touches in life are always worthwhile and I have every confidence that the new plantings will enhance the town's appearance and be enjoyed by all. However, it appears that the big picture is still being overlooked or ignored.

Once construction begins on Ace Endico, once the traffic increases, once we have yet another monolith to view from Rt. 84, and once our taxes barely budge this will become evident.

Throw in the now approved 250+ houses to be built and, frankly, a few roadside plantings will pale in comparison to the increases in school taxes

that we'll pay.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:

A really nice idea in a convenient spot!

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:

Again another wonderful idea. I urge CRSE members (you must be a resident of Southeast) to submit resumes and a letter of intent to the Town Board.

Unfortunately no mention of open space funding was made at this meeting or at any other I have attended. In fact, there has never been any public discussion about this until last night.

Will it be up to this Committee to recommend possible means of funding? Or will the committee simply put together a 'wish list' of properties to be acquired. Stay tuned...

As always feel free to e-mail me with any questions or comments that you may have.

Have a great weekend!

With Best regards,
Lynne Eckardt

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