

Hi All,

Ugh- I'm so far behind and while the Town Board meeting last week flew by there was lots of new business and the usual all-in-fun audience participation. I guess the highlight (for me anyway) was the fact that our Town Clerk (drum roll and trumpet fanfare please) now has an e-mail address- However, if Cathy Croft hadn't asked when we'd be able to e-mail the clerk how on earth would we know this???? Give up? Good, because in a million years you'd never guess the answer.

Apparently, about four weeks ago, our Town Clerk posted her brand new e-mail address on the town bulletin board. This quaint and nostalgic gesture (gosh, welcome to the 19th century- I'm laughing so hard I just snapped all my corset stays) is even more priceless if you've ever had the pleasure of observing said cork board. It's a total mess jam packed with outdated legislature subcommittee meeting agendas, notes of 'thanks' from Garden Street third graders and various and sundry legal notices- some even current. To add insult to injury the new address is (I think): townclerkmazzei@townofsoutheast-ny.net because apparently it wasn't enough to have it simply townclerk@... like our Supervisor. Heavens no, it's an election year so let's tack on the gratuitous 'branding'.

And to actually obtain this e-mail address was an adventure in itself. While, as always, the women working in the clerk's office were pleasant and accommodating, they weren't positive whether the '-' after 'southeast' was actually a hyphen or slash so I'm not sure the address given above is correct. The reason the 'address' is not on the clerk's page of the SE website is (and hold on to your derbies and bonnets here) because there 'isn't enough room'. Hilarious. In another amusing and related sidebar Councilwoman Mitts shrewdly disavowed any connection to the town clerk's page on the website.

On the plus side Bradley Schwartz had a wonderful idea regarding Town Legal Notices and suggested they could be on the Town Website and possibly e-mails to the Town List as well. It's a simple yet effective way of communicating with the public and, of course will not preclude official newspaper notices.

As always the comments above and below are my own disenchanted and callous views on life in Southeast. They reflect no organization to which I belong.

Regular Town Board Meeting: 25 January 2007

Public Hearings:

7:30PM Proposal to Increase 2007 Senior Citizen Exemption

These are limits set by the state. There were no comments.

7:31PM Release of Performance Bond - Stonecrest Senior Housing

I asked if the detention basins were now working properly. Town Engineer, Tom Fenton, spoke to the DEP and they are.

7:32PM Reduction of Performance Bond - Triple J Subdivision

Brian Alberghini's letter to the Town Board was addressed as he has many concerns with this subdivision. The Town Board said that both the subdivision's owners and Town Engineer Fenton had addressed these issues. I said that I did not believe that Mr. Alberghini had received these responses and the town concurred that he had not. I asked that the town forward these on to Mr. Alberghini and that he be given time to respond. Mr. Alberghini was given a week.

7:33PM Town Road Acceptance - International Boulevard

There were no comments.

1) Review of Minutes - December 14, 2006, Regular Meeting

January 4, 2007, Organizational Meeting

Accepted 3-0

2) Correspondence-

Reading waived. Accepted 3-0

3) Approval of Voucher List in the amount of \$895,063.61-

Accepted 3-0

4) Motion setting Meeting Dates:

February 1, 2007 7:30PM Civic Center Work Session
February 15, 2007 7:30PM Civic Center Regular Meeting
February 22, 2007 7:30PM Civic Center Work Session/Special Mtg
Approved 3-0

5) Motion Calling for the Following Public Hearings:

February 15, 2007 Civic Center
7:30PM Root Avenue Sign Plan

6) Resolution - Reduction of Performance Bond - Palazetti Office/Warehouse-
\$346,300 to \$170,000 Passed 3-0

7) Resolution - Establishment of Performance Bond - Pennella, LLC
\$110,000 Passed 3-0

8) Resolution - Establishment of Performance Bond -
High Meadow Farm Subdivision1 \$149,000 Passed 3-0

9) Resolution - Establishment of Performance Bond -
JP International Subdivision- \$243,000 Passed 3-0

10) Motion - Approve EEC, ARB Recommendation as Submitted-
1625 square foot addition to 20,000 square foot building. Approved 3-0

11) Motion - To Authorize Highway Superintendent to Purchase Vehicle for Building Department Per Budget-
Fire Inspector needs car. Passed 3-0..

12) Motion - Appointment of Open Space Committee Member-
James DiBella appointed 3-0

13) Motion - Appointment of Historic Sites Commission:
Member Kathleen Abels reappointed as Chair. Danielle C. Kennedy new member. 3-0

14) Motion - Appointment of Zoning Board Member-
Kevin Sheil reappointed 3-0

15) Resolution - Authorizing Town Attorney to Execute Stipulation of Settlement Between Belmont Eagles Ridge vs. Town of Southeast-
Passed 3-0

New Business:

Councilwoman Mitts gave a brief recap on the newly formed Recreation Board. Joe Cavanaugh was elected

Chairman and the Committee will meet twice a month. Billie Froessel is the secretary.

Cathy Croft asked if the Town Clerk had an e-mail address. Answer: 'Yes' posted on town bulletin board for three

weeks. Cathy asked about the 'Immigration Forum' held by Assemblyman Ball and suggested that the Town and Village hold a joint meeting about this issue. The feeling was that the meeting held at the Brewster Library needed a bigger venue and the meeting better facilitation.

I asked if there was a dollar limit as to the amount an elected Southeast official can receive. Answer: Yes. \$75.00.

I asked what Southeast intra-office mailboxes can be used for. Answer: Almost anything except for election fundraising. Baby announcements and the like are fine.

I asked where we stood on the Landfill closure. Answer: the access road is in and a detention basin has been constructed.

I asked if Sheriff Smith would come before a Town Board meeting as promised ? Answer: The contract is in the process of discussion and is not yet signed.

I asked about the Rental Registration Law which had been passed in November of '05- that is, when had notification letters been sent out. Answer: November of '06 and then again last week. The reason it took a year was to properly craft the letter to pass legal scrutiny.

Brad Schwartz asked the Peach Lake Storm Water Report from Hahn Engineering. Supervisor Dunford had no information on this.

Mr. Schwartz also asked about legal notices and where they were printed. Answer: Either The Journal News or Putnam Press. Brad then suggested that they be put on the town website. The Board agreed that this was a good idea and it was also suggested (by the Board) that these notices be e-mailed to those on the Town list.

Comments/Opinions:

Public Hearing- Triple J Subdivision:

This was classic. Brian Alberghini, who lives next door to this half-#ssed project, has had numerous questions along the way and put them all into letter form. For those of you who may be vague on this gem... this is the development where the barn was demolished- even though it had remained on the signed final plat. There've since been issues with road 'improvements', sight-lines and electric line installation. Anyhow, Brian sent his letter in early in December and lo and behold both the town engineer and the project's attorney addressed the issues mentioned but Brian never received their comments. Councilwoman Mitts said that she would pass them along and Mr. Alberghini was given a week to further comment.

8) Performance Bond for High Meadow Farm: \$149,000

Dry wells in wetlands- a billion dollars would probably not cover this.

9) Performance Bond JP International: \$243,000

If memory serves, this subdivision crosses both wetlands and buffers. See above.

Appointments:

Congratulations to Joe Cavanaugh on his Chairmanship- my condolences to Billie Froessel for taking on the sometimes onerous role of secretary ;) Also Kevin Sheil on his reappointment to my favorite Board- the ZBA. Congrats to Kathleen Abels, James DiBella and Danielle C. Kennedy as well.

New Business:

As entertaining as always and quite congenial New Business probably lasted longer than the meeting- but who's counting. I've already covered the breaking news on the Town Clerk's exciting foray into the 21st century so I'll move on to other items of note.

Gift Limit and use of Intra Office Mailboxes:

Of course I couldn't resist this question as I've heard that some invitations to Mrs. Mazzei's fundraiser were distributed via town in-boxes. Thus the follow-up question on the \$\$\$ limit. On the plus side Supervisor Dunford was very gracious and when asked said that I could distribute baby announcements or birthday cards the same way.

Landfill Closure:

I suppose an access road and detention basin are a major step. As usual there are no current cost estimates.

Sheriff's Patrol:

The non-answer I received leads me to believe that we will not be seeing Sheriff Smith at a Town Board meeting anytime soon. So any of you hoping for a live 'bless you' on behalf of God... it's probably not happening.

Rental Registration Law:

I just love this part. At the last 'Illegal Immigration Forum' I asked Councilwoman Mitts how the Rental Registration Law had been working out. For example how many violations had been issued etc. Mrs. Mitts did not want to give me any numbers until she checked. Fair enough.

I thought that the Town Board meeting might be a good venue to pursue this. Anyhow, the law was passed in November of '05 and the first notification letters were sent out in November '06 and then again in January '07- completely coincidentally, after the Forum where I had asked the original question. I was told that the January '07 letter went to 46 accessory apartment owners.

I suggested that to protect the town from litigation perhaps all SE residents should have received the same letter- especially as there are probably some illegal apartment owners who might just benefit from a small scare. Finally, it's pretty difficult to believe that it took a full year to 'craft' a letter that refers to 'Rental Registration Law No. 5' when it's actually 'Rental Registration Law No 6'. Oops.

I feel pretty strongly that the enactment and enforcement of this law was nothing more than an 'election promise'- and one made to show that the current administration is as tough as it can be on (Shhhhhh...) illegal immigration. Sure, it makes voters feel better to think that the town is concerned about the 'health' and 'safety' of *all* its residents. But judging from the delivery, or lack thereof, this was a completely empty promise at best.

Thanks again to Brad Schwartz for his Public Notice idea , and to John Lord who was willing to defer his 'two minutes' to me.

Scheesh- off to another Town Board meeting in less than two hours. And as always please feel free to e-mail me with any questions or comments that you might have.

With Best regards,
Lynne Eckardt