

Town of Canton
Joint Town/Village Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
In Person and Video Conferencing
Minutes

TOWN MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Ann Ashley	----	Town Supervisor
Jim Smith	----	Council Member
Bob Santamoor	----	Council Member
John Taillon	----	Council Member
Randy Brown	----	Council Member

VILLAGE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anna Sorensen	----	Trustee
Jonathan Pinckney	----	Trustee
Barbara Beekman	----	Trustee
Beth Larrabee	----	Trustee

Also Present: Town Clerk Heidi L. Smith, Town Highway Superintendent Steven Smith

Absent: Mayor Michael Dalton

Public Attendance: Tom Graser-Watertown Daily Times, Toby Irvén, Margaret Mauch, SLC Chamber Canton Representative Katie Berry

Zoom Attendance: Town Confidential Secretary/Bookkeeper Shelby Bacon, WWNY

A. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Supervisor Ashley introduced Katie Berry the SLC Chamber Canton Representative.

Katie added things are going well and the first initiative for the Town of Canton is Winterfest. Katie also added that if anyone knows of anything going on in Canton or St. Lawrence County during the Great Northern Totality Eclipse to let her know because they want to promote people to come to St. Lawrence County to view the eclipse since we are in the line of totality.

B. Old Business

1. Building Committee Update

Village Trustee Anna Sorensen reported that the committee has met several times and have reviewed the original plans for the storage use. The committee has met with the Town, Village and Court Clerks on storage use and believe that we can reduce the storage space by quite a bit.

Anna also added that the committee has been working with a group of Clarkson students that have been tasked with coming up with a plan, basic layout, and suggestions on the new building. The committee reviewed those suggestions and gave feedback to the students. This semester some of the same students and different students are in a capstone class. Meaning the group is going to work specifically on the

next steps on refining the plan and give the committee new ideas. Sorensen added that this is a great opportunity to provide the students with real life experience in terms of their future jobs and make them familiar with local government.

Town Council Member John Taillon added at the next meeting DANC is coming to see if they can help find funding sources for this project.

Town Council Member Jim Smith asked if there has been discussion on what we can afford to make this project possible. Council Member Taillon responded that it this is also part of what the Clarkson students are tasked with.

Village Trustee Sorensen added that one of the things that is impacting the Village is the equalization rate and where it is going, which is going to impact what the Village can borrow.

2. Stiles Ave Strategic Sute Plan Update

Town Council Member Jim Smith reported there was a kickoff meeting. Barton and Loguidice are looking for the original drawings of the barn. Highway Superintendent Steven Smith stated that he believes that Real Property will be able to help with this since the firm that engineered the building is out of business. B&L also wants all environmental resting results that have been done on the property. It is believed that the information is in the Allstate's file.

3. Comprehensive Plan Oversight Update

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley reported that there was a kickoff meeting on November 28th and the next steps is that Jackie is going to send the department heads additional information and get recommendations on their priorities for 2024 and 2025. They are also going to send out a survey as well.

C. New Business

1. Waterfront Advisory Committee

Discussion was had on who is on the committee.

Village Trustee Sorensen added that because the Town & Village was awarded the LWRP it seems that the Waterfront Advisory Committee is the appropriate body to serve as the stakeholder group for that purpose. Sorensen thinks that we need to formalize who is in the committee and add people to the group. There needs to be Village representation. Sorensen suggested that the ED team brainstorm a list of who we want to be represented.

Town Council Member Randy Brown added that he spoke with Tom Langer who is on the Waterfront Committee. Tom is aware that the grant has been awarded and understands the committee has holes and they need to be filled. Council Member

Brown let Tom know that Leigh will be the contact person moving forward.

2. Warming Center Discussion

Supervisor Ashley put this item on the agenda out of concern with climate change and wants to know why the Town does not have a warming center. Ashley feels the Town should have one and that we should be more supportive. Ashley wanted to get a feel from the boards on how they feel about the situation.

It was discussed that more research needs to be done by reaching out to other communities who have successfully done this and how they have handled it. While also looking at what resources already exist in the community and if the Town/Village could possibly partner with. This could also be a something that the ED steering committee could take on.

3. Shared Services Agreement

Supervisor Ashley listed off the shared services and that they are due for review. A meeting needs to be held in March to review these agreements. Ashley will send out an email to the committee to get the meeting set.

4. Ethics Committee

Supervisor Ashley gave a brief background on how the ethics committee and Law came together. It has been three years since the committee was created. Ashley stated that we need to reach out to those on the committee and see if they still want to serve and if so, they need to be reappointed.

Supervisor Ashley added that the next Joint Town/Village meeting will be April 24, 2024.

Both boards agreed to allow for public comment.

Toby Irven – Canton Resident

Toby stated that the Town has a Capital Resource Corporation which may provide some resource for funding for a new building. The corporation stands ready to engage with the Town/Village.


Toby also added that with the new Salt Storage Barn there needs to be consideration of access of the roads, the development of Thompson Court, and the potential development of a trail that connects Stiles Ave to 310. If not 310 then connect to the Price Chopper Plaza. This has been in the trail plan for quite some time.

A motion was made by Village Trustee Barbara Beekman and seconded by Village Trustee Beth Larrabee to adjourn the Joint Meeting for the Village at 6:42 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Town Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Town Council member Randy Brown to adjourn the Joint Meeting for the Town at 6:42 p.m.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heidi L. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heidi L. Smith
Town Clerk

