

**Minutes for the Ticonderoga Planning Board Meeting held on
March 3, 2016 commencing at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Chairman Stu Baker, Doug McTyier, Walt Lender, Mike Powers, Scott Manning, Town Clerk Tonya M. Thompson

Absent: Ben Leerkes, Don Meserve

Others: Highway Superintendent Sal Barnao

Mr. Baker opened the meeting with the Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The members received some material from Code Enforcement on signs - they will review this material and discuss at a later meeting when Mr. Ball is present.

Parking Ordinance

The Town Board asked the Planning Board to look at a proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Overnight Parking. Mr. Barnao has been asked to attend tonight for his input also.

Mr. Manning questions why we would need a year round ordinance, he doesn't understand this. It is for street cleaning, but the Town Crew doesn't come in until 6:00 a.m., they will not be out street sweeping at one a.m. in the morning.

Mr. Barnao explained that this Ordinance was started with the previous administration, he does not necessarily agree with it.

Mrs. Thompson wanted to explain that this originated out of the want to attach the added wording to the existing ordinance, the need came from being able to run the sweeper without obstacles in order to sweep the streets to clean them and keep the debris out of waste water treatment plant so we do not have to treat it and put it through out systems. This is just the start, concerns have come up and now it is in front of this board for discussion and recommendations.

Mr. Manning stated that his input is that his son (who is not the only one) has absolutely no off street parking at all. In order for him to park off the street, he would have to go to the bank's free parking lot, but he is on Burgoyne by the basketball courts. There is no place to park.

Mr. Baker agreed that there are a lot of properties in town, he is not aware that the Town has an inventory of the what properties in the Hamlet do not have off street parking. Were they to do such an inventory, they may be surprised at what they find.

Mr. McTyier asked what were the proposed hours.

Mr. Manning acknowledged that they are from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. He added that he understands for snow removal, but year round does not make any sense to him.

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Mr. Lender does feel that it is important that there is time set aside so there is not cars on the streets or on certain streets, to give the Town a chance to get the street sweeper out. There has been a long term problem with salt and sand and grit, debris and garbage getting down into the storm water which then combines with the sewer system which all has to be treated. We are probably in agreement that there has to be some opportunity in which to clean the streets.

Mr. Manning wondered why we couldn't designate one day a month.

Mr. Lender believes that it would take more than one day a month.

Mr. Barnao believes that there are a couple different things that can be done in his thoughts. You can alternate streets, put out signs; but a reduction of material all together in the Town - no sand at all, strictly salt in the hamlet of the Village. As far as the clean-up it should not be nearly what it was. He does not know specifics, but he is getting information from his crew on the issue.

Mr. Powers asked why we are making it Town wide, that doesn't make much sense to him to include some side roads up on Street Road. He can understand the hamlet, but the out lying roads do not make much sense to him.

Mr. Lender agreed that the out lying roads are cleaned up a couple of times a year. He does agree with Mr. Powers that on the rural roads it is not necessarily needing a ban.

Mr. Powers suggests for the rural areas put something on TiTV, the radio, something somehow to say the Town is going to run the street sweeper on this road or that road on these days, get the cars off the street. That would take care of any thing out there.

Mr. Baker would be surprised if there actually was a problem in the rural areas. Most of the properties outside of the hamlet have plenty of off street parking.

Mr. Barnao noted that we have had a mild winter and we really have not had that big of a deal even in Town, there may have been one or two cars and we were able to work around them.

Mr. Baker asked if the parking ban for snow removal, how is the enforcement on that issue.

Mr. Barnao explained that if there is a problem, they will notify the police department and they will either try to find the owner of the vehicle or they will ticket them. There are habitual offenders, though.

Mr. Baker asked if this is a similar situation when it comes to the sweeping season?

Mr. Barnao can't comment on that, this will be his first season dealing with the sweeper issues.

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Mr. Baker stated that he is an advocate of don't regulate if you don't have to. If it is the same people - well we are a small community - we know who owns those cars, would a person to person conversation saying hey during the sweeping season and here is the schedule for your street, can you please not park overnight. Would that be worth trying, rather than enacting a town wide ban, year round. Do it through out reach, but if we know who the problem cars are, changes are we do know who the owners are - talk to them, ask them to park elsewhere on those specific days that you are going to sweep, maybe that will do it. If it hasn't been tried, he would recommend it.

Mr. McTyier asked if people can park in church parking lots, or this buildings parking lot?

Mr. Baker noted that churches are all private property.

Mr. Lender noted that there is public parking lots behind the downtown buildings on the North side, and by the Elks Lodge, here at the Community Building behind the old Newberry's building.

Mr. Baker asked if we have an inventory of our public parking lots?

Mrs. Thompson said we do have an inventory of our public lots, but they have not been lined yet. Hopefully, that will happen this year. We have actually put up new signs to those public parking areas.

Mr. Powers believes that talking to these people first does make total sense, but then you might want to have the ability to say we have talked to you four times, you are not moving, you are going to get ticketed and we do not have that ability under this law now.

Mr. Baker agreed that the Town Board could codify it as proposed, but Town wide may not be the wisest.

Mr. Manning mentioned that the downtown building, second floor apartments all have parking out behind the buildings.

Mr. Baker noted that not all do.

Mr. Powers agreed that there is not parking for some of these buildings. He also asked how we define the Hamlet. Do we define that by streets, or we could do it by the existing Zoning.

Mr. Baker agreed that there are some municipalities that do that, he did some search on parking ban codes and they define no parking areas by zoning districts. You want to avoid, though, any confusion that just because it is referencing zoning that the enforcement would fall on the codes officer.

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Mrs. Thompson noted that when she hands out burning permits, she has to quote the prior "Village" limits and she has a map to show such. This basically coincides with the hamlet.

Mr. Lender agrees that we could use that and designate alternate side parking.

Mr. Baker said you can base the ban on a typical sweeping schedule, so we would need a set schedule of what streets get done on what days during the sweeping season.

Mr. Barnao stated that he can make up any schedule for this, whatever will work best.

Mr. Baker added that being a community that relies heavily on tourism, during the sweeping season we don't want to create an environment that becomes unfriendly to the people that are coming to visit.

Mr. Powers agreed that the last thing we want to do is give someone from Germany a parking ticket.

Mr. Lender agrees, we want to present clean streets that are welcoming but we do have to have an opportunity to do that.

Mr. Baker believes the root issue here is the fact that we have the combined storm water and sewer system, right?

Mr. Lender agreed that this is a big part of it, but also aesthetics, too. This has always been an issues even since we had a Village, trying to keep the streets clean. The combined storm water and sanitary sewer is a big problem for the sewer plant all of that dirt and debris even though there is less, still gets to the plant and creates problems with the valves and the pumps and everything else.

Mr. Baker would like to boil down this conversation to some definite points of recommendation to the Town Board.

Mr. Powers believes we all agree that it should only apply to the area of the Former 'Village'.

Mr. Manning likes the idea of a verbal warning the first time and not just ticketing them.

Mr. Baker added that this code also needs to specifically assign who is doing the enforcement responsibility, and that everybody understands that it would be the police department, not the Highway Department or Code Enforcement.

Mr. McTyier is thinking that during tourism season, you have young people that come in from all over the place to go the 'Pub' or other establishments and they will have no idea about this. If they decide that they can't drive home, they are stuck. You don't want to encourage them to drive.

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Mr. Baker agrees; to even put the car around back, you don't want to encourage that.

Mr. McTyier wonders if we can modify this to a degree, during those high tourist seasons.

Mr. Baker agrees that this is a good point.

Mr. Lender came back to the actual the timing of the parking ban, if we say an overnight parking ban even in the summer time, what good does that really do for the Highway Department cleaning the roads, if the ban is 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.?

Mrs. Thompson explained that the crew changes their shifts when they need to clean the streets or remove snow.

Mr. Baker then asked if 6 a.m. would work for the sweeper?

Mr. Barnao agreed.

Mr. Lender asked how we would address the downtown establishments?

Mr. McTyier added that for the summer months downtown, it is not just a weekend problem either. The establishments are open throughout the week.

Mrs. Thompson asked Mr. Barnao if he had any strong feelings towards a plan or what he would like to see happen with this?

Mr. Barnao doesn't really know at this moment, he feels it is almost a just wait and see.

Mr. Powers agrees that you kind of need to see a whole season, before you can actually say this is what I need.

Mrs. Thompson mentioned that this may need to be tabled until further notice.

Mr. Barnao would like to have further discussions with staff on what the issues really are.

Mr. Powers agrees that maybe this should be tabled until August or September and talk with the guys that do the work.

Mr. Barnao believes that there may be other things that we can try that may work.

Mr. Baker agreed that maybe just an article in the paper, here is the sweeping schedule - help us out by not parking on the evenings that we are doing your roads and see what difference that makes.

Mr. Lender suggests letting the Town board know our initial thoughts and they are:

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1. Verbal Warnings given to Vehicle Owners
2. Limit to the Hamlet (prior Village) area
3. Alternate sides of the roads - based on a published schedule
4. Allow Highway Superintendent's input after experiencing a season of sweeping

The Board then inquired and held further discussions about the issue with storm water and sanitary sewer combination and the regulations to separate.

Mrs. Thompson did tell the board that the Town is actively working on this issue, there are projects coming in the future.

Mr. Baker thanked Mr. Barnao for his attendance and help tonight.

Additional Items:

Signage Concerns -

Will review the distributed list and discuss at the next meeting. The Board would like Mr. Ball to attend the meeting.

Abandoned Buildings -

Mr. Manning expressed his concern regarding all the abandoned properties around the Town.

The board held much discussion and agreed that this is a huge issue.

Mrs. Thompson explained that there has been a lot of movement in recent months regarding abandoned buildings. The Codes Department has been trying to 'Notice' the owners on record. The problem is that the banks are not in a hurry to get their names on these properties so that we can hold them responsible for the problems that we are seeing.

Resolution #1-2016 brought by Walt Lender, seconded by Scott Manning to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. 5 - Aye, 0 - Nays. 2 - Absent. **Carried.**

Respectfully submitted, Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk