

**TOWN OF CHATHAM**  
**Public Hearing**  
**Proposed Local Law to create a Conservation Advisory Council**  
**September 20, 2012**  
7 PM

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Jesse DeGroot, Councilman Maria Lull, Councilman Jean Rohde, Councilman Henry Swartz, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Highway Superintendent Joe Rickert, Deidre Henderson.

**ABSENT:** Councilman Bob Balcom

Supervisor DeGroot called the meeting to order 7:00 PM and lead the pledge to the flag.

**RES. #92-12** to adopt the Short Environmental Assessment Form and support the negative declaration. Councilman Rohde offered RES. #92-12 and moved its adoption to adopt the Short Environmental Assessment Form and support the negative declaration as determined for the enactment of the new CAC Law. Supervisor DeGroot seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Ayes; DeGroot, Rohde, Lull, Swartz  
Nays; None Resolution adopted

The **Public Hearing** was opened 7:04 PM.

**Correspondence:** Letters on file.

- Councilman Bob Balcom stated that he “will not support a motion to accept the proposed changes to Chapter 134 without changes that better align it with the comprehensive plan.”
- Ellen Jouret-Epstein, CLC attached a sample CAC law and commented on the proposed CAC law as it relates to Membership, Powers and Duties and references to the State law.

**Public Comment:**

- Deidre Henderson asked why the Board felt the need to revise the law at all. Why would the Board reduce the advisory role of the CAC?
- Councilman Swartz felt the current law on the books which dates back to the 1970’s needed revision to bring it up to date. The ZIC reviewed the proposed law twice and recommended changes be made to better fit with the today’s needs.
- The Town Board sees the CAC as an advisory committee to the ZBA and PB. The proposed law is a start and can change as the committee grows and evolves. Councilman Rohde stated that the new law was drafted with an eye on the comprehensive plan.

There was no further comment. The Public Hearing will remain open.

The **Regular Town Board Meeting** was opened at 7:35 PM.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Claire Wheeler re: resignation as town historian effective August 31, 2012.

- B. NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation re: North Chatham Historic District, State Rte. 203, CR 32 and Bunker Hill Rd. was listed September 4, 2012 on the National Register of Historic Places
- C. Town of Ulysses re: Thanking the Town for becoming a signatory to the Amicus Briefs involving the home rule law and updating on the appeals timeline.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE

## **REPORTS**

A. Highway – report on file.

- CSX will do the repairs on the East Chatham Bridge to bring it back up to the 20 ton limit. Updates can be found on the Town website and on Facebook.
- Hwy. Super would like permission to post signs to warn people of the large sinkhole which has developed on the NYSEG right-of-way on the railroad bed between Riders Mills Rd. and Dorland Rd. The Town does own the property. DEC has issued a permit but it will run out at the end of the month, however they may extend. The highway department does not have the equipment to do the job.

B. Recreation Department – report on file.

C. Code Enforcement/Zoning Enforcement – report on file

D. Dog Control – report on file

E. EMC – Deidre Henderson reported that the CC EMC will host a public forum to address testing following the fire at TCI. Dr. David Carpenter, director of the Institute for Health and Environment at UAlbany will speak on Oct. 8, 2012 at 7PM at the Ghent Recreation Center on Rte. 22.

F. Justice Court – report on file

G. Assessor –

H. ZIC – Meetings will be as follows, October 17, November 7 and December 5 and 19, 2012.

I. Supervisor – The County is busy with budget discussions.

J. Comptroller –report on file

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Appoint Cathy Bell town Historian effective September 1, 2012

## **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Proposed Conservation Advisory Council local law. Public Hearing will remain open.

B. Councilman Swartz spoke about “CodeRed”. The CodeRed system is designed to keep citizens informed. It will be used to send critical communications, from evacuation notices to severe weather warnings and missing child alerts. To opt-in and join the database, register at <http://columbiacountyny.com> and click the CodeRed banner.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**RES. #93-12** to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2012 regular town board meeting. Councilman Lull offered RES. #93-12 and moved its adoption to accept the August 16, 2012 minutes of the regular town board meeting. Councilman Rohde seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Ayes; DeGroot, Rohde, Lull, Swartz

Nays; None

Resolution adopted

**RES. #94-12** to set the date of Thursday, October 4, 2012 at 7 PM for budget presentation and workshop and schedule Thursday, October 11, 2012 at 7 PM for a budget workshop. Supervisor DeGrootd offered RES. #94-12 to set the date of Thursday, October 4, 2012 at 7 PM for budget presentation and workshop and schedule Thursday, October 11, 2012 at 7 PM for a budget workshop. Councilman Swartz seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Ayes; DeGrootd, Rohde, Lull, Swartz  
Nays; None                      Resolution adopted

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Deidre Henderson questioned the language of the enabling law and stated that it was mandatory for the proposed CAC law to include that same language. There is some disagreement on whether the word “shall” makes it mandatory for inclusion.

Motion was made by Councilman Swartz and seconded by Councilman Rhode to adjourn at 8:00 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel  
Town Clerk