



COUNCILMAN **HORTON**



4 High St, Saugerties NY 12477

845-750-3287

zhorton@saugertiesny.gov

Facebook: Zach Horton,
Councilman Zach Horton &
ZachHorton4Saugerties

Instagram: @_ZachHorton

Twitter: @_ZachHorton

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Issue No. 8, February 2nd, 2023

Intent:

A concern that continues to surface amongst the public is the lack of communication between government and the members of the community in which that body of government operates. Open communication, or lack thereof, between elected officials and the citizens not only contributes to speculation and misinformation on issues, but also increases the divide and distrust between government and the people that the governing body serves. The time for correcting this issue is long overdue.

This newsletter offers a fact-based and bipartisan exchange of information in effort to assist the people of the community with staying up-to-date and informed on the issues concerning Saugerties. In addition to social media accounts, local bulletins, and the town website, this will be another resource for people to reference to better inform themselves on what has happened, what is happening, what will be happening, and information regarding upcoming events. The idea is that this resource outlines the most pressing issues relating to Saugerties. However, all other issues can and will be reported on based on the demand and feedback from the community.

Winston Farm:

During the Town Board meeting held on 7/13/22, the Town Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution, as on file, pertaining to Saugerties Farms LLC for a Planned Development District (PDD), The Winston Farm Project. This approval included the acknowledgment of the State Environment Quality Review (SEQR) determination: Positive Declaration.

For current updates follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ZachHorton4Saugerties>

A public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Saugerties on **Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Frank. D. Greco Memorial Senior Center, 207 Market Street, Saugerties NY. This is regarding the Draft Scope for the Winston Farm Planned Development District Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement ("DGEIS"). The Town of Saugerties Town Board, as Lead Agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), has determined that the proposed zoning amendment for the Winston Farm Planned Development District may have significant adverse impact on the environment.

(Update 10-6-2022): During the Board Meeting held on 9-21-2022, the residents of Saugerties, as well as interested/involved parties of the Winston Farm Project, gathered at the Senior Citizen Center for the public hearing regarding the scoping document related to the proposed project. Many individuals spoke out against the project, as well as in favor of the project. Overall, most of the speakers who relayed statements of opposition were displeased with what they believe to be "vagueness and exclusion of materials" related to the scoping document. Others also made statements related to water usage and availability as it pertains to the property and the proposed project.

Since this meeting, town officials have continued to engage with the town planner and other parties to further examine the scoping document, gather input from each party, and offer individual input and remarks before advancing. This meeting, as outlined in the above update, was merely a public hearing and the Town Board, nor any other invested party, made any decisions on the project proposal itself. More updates will be provided as they become available, and the public will continue to be made aware of all public events related to this project.

(Update 1-5-23): During the Town Board meeting held on January 5th, 2023, the first meeting of the year, the Town Board voted to adopt the final scoping document related to the Winston Farm Project. This document is available upon request and can be found on the Town of Saugerties website. The Town Board and all involved parties, including the Conservation Advisory Commission as an interested party/agency regarding this project, will continue to openly communicate throughout the SEQRA process, as well as all other phases of this project. The Town Board will also continue to work diligently to keep the public informed throughout the process, and assure that all information, documentation, and any other related materials, are readily available. Please continue to check the Town of Saugerties website and local accounts of the town's elected officials for any future updates, meeting information, and project details.

Upcoming Local Elections:

This November, elections for the following offices will be taking place:

Saugerties Town Supervisor
Saugerties Town Board (2 seats)
Town of Saugerties Justice
Receiver of Taxes
Ulster County Legislator (Districts 1, 2, and 3)

If you are interested in any of these offices, please contact the Chairs of your local affiliated political party.

Town of Saugerties Ethics Committee:

The Town of Saugerties is currently accepting applications to fill a recently vacated seat on the Town of Saugerties Ethics Committee, which is a Town Board appointed committee. Saugerties residents are invited to submit letters of intent and resumes for consideration. This seat is for a four (4) year term, set to expire on 12-31-26. Deadlines for letters of intent if February 17th, 2023, and can be mailed or hand delivered to the Supervisor's office: 4 High Street, Saugerties, NY 12477, or can be emailed to twood@saugertiesny.gov

For current updates follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ZachHorton4Saugerties>

Town Board Meeting, 1-5-2023:

This Town Board meeting was the organizational meeting for the year. Local elected officials confirmed their committee assignments for 2023. An updated list of all committees in operation within the Town of Saugerties, as well as the liaison, can be found on the Town of Saugerties website. During this meeting, public hearing dates were set for the following:

Wednesday, January 18th, 2023: Public Information Meeting 5:30pm; The Villas-Spaulding Lane

Wednesday, January 18th, 2023: Public Hearing 6:00pm; Public Charter Communications

Wednesday, January 18th, 2023: Public Hearing 6:30pm; Firefighter's Tax Exemption

During this meeting, the Town Board also adopted the final scoping document pertaining to the Winston Farm Project (please see above update for further detail).

Town Board Meeting, 1-18-2023:

During this regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, public hearings were held regarding The Villas at Spaulding Lane, Public Charter Communications, and the Firefighter's Tax Exemption. Several community members gathered in attendance to voice their opposition regarding the Villas at Spaulding Lane. The purpose of this project proposal is "affordable senior housing." Many that spoke in opposition listed concerns regarding maximum building height, the lack of tax revenue from the property, a potential lottery system for interested residents, the impact on taxpayers and emergency services, and the location and impact on the surrounding residents and homeowners. The representatives for this project spoke and presented the Board and audience with a presentation prior to the public comment. The members of the Dominican Sisters and project developers are essentially requesting the Town Board adopt a zoning change to allow for the apartment structures to be built as proposed. The Board will convene and further discuss the public comments, as well as the information proposed by the developers. Please refer to the Town of Saugerties website for updates and future meeting information regarding this project.

Recently, New York State adopted into the law, an additional Firefighter's Tax Exemption. The purpose for this is to allow local municipalities the ability to further incentivize volunteers in efforts to combat recruitment and retention issues in local departments. Several community members spoke in favor of this being passed by the board. As it stands, most of the board, if not an entire consensus, appears to be in favor of passing this and offering an increased property tax incentive for local volunteer firefighters. The Board expects to vote on this very soon. Please refer to the Town of Saugerties website for more information on this local proposal and/or the state legislation.

As a result of this scheduled Town Board meeting, the outstanding issue regarding the zoning changes and adoption of a local law related to the operation of sawmills/lumbermills, was passed by the Town Board. This became the first Local Law of 2023. This local law can be found on the Town of Saugerties website for further review.

For current updates follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ZachHorton4Saugerties>

Warming Center:

In anticipation of the upcoming severe cold weather, there will be a 24/7 accessible warming center located in the Town Hall lobby, near the Receiver of Taxes Office. Anyone who is need during this time, can access this area. This will be in effect from Thursday 2/2/23 through Sunday 2/5/23.

Upcoming Events & Information:

Town Board Meetings:

- Wednesday, February 8th, 7:00pm
- In-person at the Senior Citizen Center
- WebEx available
- Agenda (TBD)

Town Planning Board Meeting:

- Tuesday, February 21st, 7:30pm
- Please contact Becky Bertorelli for further information; bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov

Pickleball:

- Pickleball games will be happening every Wednesday from 12:00pm-2:00pm at Donlon Auditorium
- Cost is \$10, with all proceeds going towards the construction of the Saugerties Pickleball Courts
- To reserve a spot, please call Diane Myers at 845-217-7981

Upstate Films/Orpheum Theater:

- Third Thursday of each month
- All proceeds from popcorn sales are donated to a local not-for-profit partner
- Please visit the town website for further information <https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org>

Job Openings:

Part-Time School Crossing Guard

- \$14.00/hr.

***Please visit the town website for further
job opening information and application
details***

<https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org>