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Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Issue No. 9, February 17th, 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.

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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.

(Update 2-8-2023): During the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting held on 2-8-23, the Saugerties Town Board voted on and passed the motion regarding H2M Architects and Engineers. H2M will be working in conjunction with the Town of Saugerties in regard to the Winston Farm Project, and the hydrogeological evaluation process, as well as assisting with the review of the Scoping Document. Currently, the developers of Winston Farm are completing their own water testing studies. Once completed, that data will be shared with the Town of Saugerties. Saugerties will then work with H2M to determine whether or not those findings are accurate and current. In the event the determination is made that these findings are inadequate in anyway, the Town will then reassess what further studies need to be completed on behalf of the developers in order to gain an accurate and appropriate comprehensive understanding of the site’s hydrogeological status.

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.

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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

Saugerties Dog Park:

Site work has commenced at the Saugerties Dog Park location. Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with other Town staff, have begun grading, though it's likely that more material is needed in order to have a successfully even-graded area. Additionally, the construction and installation of the drainage pipes and fencing have begun as well. Officials for The Town of Saugerties are optimistic that this dog park location will be available for use soon.

Town Board Meeting, 2-8-2023:

The following are some key takeaways from this regularly scheduled Town Board meeting:

The Saugerties Town Board voted to accept H2M Architects and Engineers proposal for professional services. Please refer to the updated narrative above under the "Winston Farm" section for more details.

In response to the recent New York State legislation regarding exemptions for volunteer firefighters, The Saugerties Town Board voted on and pass Local Law; "Authorizing Partial Exemption From Real Property Taxes for Enrolled Members of A Volunteer Fire Department Or Fire Company In The Town Of Saugerties." For a more comprehensive review of this Local Law, including restrictions and eligibility information, please visit the Town of Saugerties website.

The Town Board also voted to temporarily suspend all fines regarding late Airbnb applications and permits, until July 31st, 2023. Effective August 1st, 2023, all fines will be reinstated for any late applications or permits. Additionally, due to a significant portion of public demand, the Town Board is expected to revisit this local law pertaining to Short Term Rentals (STRs) and discuss where possible improvements can be made to address the community's concerns.

Upcoming Events & Information:

Town Board Meetings:

- Public Hearings on 3/1/23: Property Maintenance 6:00pm
- Wednesday, March 1st, 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

Town of Saugerties Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

- Public hearing will be held on Monday, March 6th, 2023 at 7:00pm, at the Senior Citizen Center

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- Meeting will address new appeals and variances
- For further information, please visit the Town of Saugerties website and reference the ZBA Agenda Page
- Please contact Becky Bertorelli for additional information: bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov

Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Dinner/Induction

- Saturday April 1st at Diamond Mills
- Doors will open at 5:00pm for a cocktail and greeting hour
- Dinner and induction ceremony to follow at 6:30pm
- Tickets are available by contacting Mike Hasenbalg: 914-388-2348; mikehasenbalg@yahoo.com
- The cost per ticket is \$30.00

Community Action:

- Anti-poverty agency serving Ulster and Sullivan counties
- Providing a comprehensive approach to the needs of the economically disadvantaged through a variety of services
- One highlighted program; monthly farm of stand of free and healthy vegetables to the Saugerties Senior Center
- Program will begin on Friday April 28th, and will take place once per month until it concludes on Friday, October 27th
- For additional information, contact Outreach Program Director Suzy Hinchey: 845-338-8750
- <https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/607>

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>