

**Town of Skaneateles**  
**June 4, 2015**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Supervisor Sennett, Councilor Greenfield, Councilor Murray, Councilor Brace, Councilor Howard, Attorney Thomas.

**Also Present:** Jonathan Monfiletto (Skaneateles Journal), Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Stephen Ladd, \*Dave Colegrove.

**Department Reports**

▪*Highway, Water, Transfer Station:* In Allan Wellington's absence, Councilor Greenfield read the report stating that the Highway Department had repaired damaged shoulders, replaced a driveway culvert, cleaned ditches, started roadside mowing, patched roads and paved Mill Road. In the Water Department they completed the annual water quality report and continued to flush hydrants in Water District #1. They also did maintenance to the pressure reducing valve. At the Transfer Station the Town Constable checked for permits and covered loads and they continue to load mulch for DeMarco. Superintendent Wellington attended the annual Cornell Highway School June 1-3.

▪*Parks Department:* In Sue Murphy's absence, Supervisor Sennett read the report stating that the waterfront will open for swimming on June 24<sup>th</sup> and will be open 7 days a week from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the waterfront will open after graduation. Playday begins on June 29<sup>th</sup>. End of school year picnics at Austin Park will begin next week and go until June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Derby will take place on July 18<sup>th</sup> and they are still looking for volunteers to help. Sue Murphy has worked with Nicki Marquis, Director of the Skaneateles Library on having books children can read as they walk around the walking path at Austin Park. It will be geared to kids in grades 3-5. The Parks Department will be installing 13 posts and the library will put a page from the book to place on each post. Children can read the entire book as they walk around the path ending at the playground. As soon as the wood chips arrive they will be added for better footing. Austin Park will also be a lunch site on August 3<sup>rd</sup> for approximately 100 bikers participating in the "Pennsylvania Perimeter Ride Against Cancer." A new path has been added at the Skaneateles Falls Park that connects to a parking area off of the east end of School Street to access the Park.

▪*Codes:* Councilor Brace reported that 31 permits were issued during the month of May by the Codes Enforcement Officer. Among the permits issued was a solar system and two fireworks permits. Total permit fees collected in May was \$11,935 with permit valuation of \$2,204,845.

▪*Animal Control:* Councilor Greenfield reviewed the first report from Dave Wawro covering the period from March 28<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup> with 28 calls. He also reviewed a Dog Control Officer Inspection Report from NYS Agriculture and Markets completed May 5, 2015 showing that the services were all rated Satisfactory.

**Minutes:**

*Resolution #15-083*

▪*May 12, 2015:* On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Greenfield and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of May 12, 2015 were accepted as presented.

*Resolution #15-084*

▪*May 21, 2015:* On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the minutes of May 21, 2015 were accepted as presented.

**Rails to Trails Report:** Councilor Brace introduced Stephen Ladd, a member of the Rails to Trails Committee and highly complimented his great efforts on this committee, especially connecting with Syracuse Onondaga County Planning Agency (SOCPA), the City of Syracuse and the City of Syracuse Water Department, to name a few.

Mr. Ladd said that he lived in the Boston area for about eight years and while he was there he became involved with a rails to trails organization. With excellent foresight many communities in that area banded together, found funding, organized citizens and turned some of those prior railroad rights of ways into excellent biking trails.

Mr. Ladd said he moved to Skaneateles about 1 ½ years ago. He heard that a rails to trails committee was being organized and became part of the team. He said the purpose of tonight's report is to update the Town Board on the progress that has been made since the committee was organized. He said there is a core group on the committee including Councilor Brace and Supervisor Sennett that have been working on this consistently. A vision statement was adopted by the Town Board in October 2014. The committee did a lot of fact finding with Rich Abbott at the City of Syracuse Water Department over the winter and then referred Mr. Ladd to the Syracuse offices for historical data and GPS data on the waterline and where it runs along the creek going north and where it passes under Old Seneca Turnpike. The committee wanted to look at options for going over or under Old Seneca Turnpike. They also looked at historic Town records on where the rail line easement actually is and also when and how was it communicated to the residents that the Town still has ownership and maintains rights over the old rail line.

Mr. Ladd coordinated with the Welch Allyn site in Skaneateles Falls to incorporate their hiking trails into the maps. He has had village input from Dave Miller, Jim Lanning and Bob Green to understand what the Village plan is and how the Town can connect to that. Members of the committee have also walked the trail to provide GPS data.

Steve said he met several times with Ed Hart at SOCPA. Mr. Hart then produces maps from what they have discussed. The committee then discusses the maps, makes changes which Mr. Hart incorporates. All at no charge to the Town. Mr. Hart is doing this with the full support of his Supervisors and SOCPA. Mr. Ladd said it reflects well that SOCPA is aware what the Town is interested in doing and how it relates to other things that the County is looking at. He said that this has been a wonderful service for this project. At the next meeting with Mr. Hart and his supervisors the committee may be getting into other issues such as funding, timelines and connectivity. He said he wanted to recognize Mr. Hart for all the support he has given.

Mr. Ladd said that the Committee has sponsored two clean up events at the Charlie Major Nature Trail. There were about 40 people who participated at this year's event. There were more students this year which was promoted at school. Councilor Brace said that there were less people last year but both years collected about the same amount of debris. She emphasized that

what they are collecting are items that have been there a long, long time. Mr. Ladd stated that there was not a lot of new trash that they saw along the trail.

Councilor Brace said that she along with Supervisor Sennett, Steve Ladd, Allan Wellington and Sue Murphy walked the nature trail a few weeks back and identified some erosion areas along the trail. Allan Wellington will fit the repair of those areas into the highway schedule.

Steve reviewed the concept maps displayed on the overhead screen. The proposals from the Village are also in the concept stage from the lake along the creek to the existing Steve Krause Trail. He showed concept trails from Steve Krause Trail north through a state flood/hazardous area where there can be no building but public use is encouraged. He pointed out that there is a snowmobile trail in this area. The landowners involved have already given permission for this activity but these owners have not been approached regarding the trail. Councilor Brace said she believes Jim Lanning has approached at least some of these residents.

Mr. Ladd continued crossing Fennell Street to a proposed park at the corner of Old Seneca and Fennell Street that has not been presented to or accepted by the Town. Then the trail would continue across Old Seneca Turnpike over the City of Syracuse property to the Charlie Major Nature Trail continuing to its northern terminus. The rail bed continues straight down Railroad Street to the intersection of Railroad and Sheldon Roads. There is an existing bridge that crosses the creek in this section. Alternatively if the rail/trail does not follow Railroad Street through that area it could involve going along the creek which would involve easements across private property. Melissa Moonan has been part of the committee and who owns property in this area. Councilor Brace said that the committee has tasked themselves with making it a multi-use trail, biking and hiking. This may be an area where the trail splits and the biking remains on Railroad Street and the hiking would go along the creek.

Mr. Ladd said the next map picks up from Railroad Street where it could again split and go along the creek or down Jordan Road to Visions Drive. Visions Drive is a low traffic road and it could connect to the former Welch Allyn employee exercise trail. Welch Allyn is aware that the committee is looking at this but there have been no further discussions. It would continue past Stauffer and then there are proposed concepts to continue using the Welch Allyn employee trail and also branch off to go to the Skaneateles Falls town park. There are a lot of opportunities for new paths and parking areas to provide connectivity and to hopefully continue to the Town of Elbridge. One of the interesting facts is that it is only a couple more miles to connect to the Old Erie Canal Trail and that is one of the areas that SOCPA is interested in seeing how they can help us connect to that trail.

Steve Ladd said that the next option will be to liaison with the Open Space Committee and to meet with the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council who have professional mappers, planners and GPS people and are tied into all the municipalities and local governments and also an avenue for funding in the future. The Department of Transportation is key for crossing the various roads and to continue the liaison with the Village of Skaneateles. They want input from the hamlets when meetings are scheduled in the fall. They want to look at grant opportunities when they come up in September or October. The committee is not looking at doing the trail from the lake to the Town of Elbridge line in one fell swoop. They plan to do what they can with

available funding so that the citizens of the Town have their needs met in a beneficial way. The committee will continue meeting and holding information sessions and they look forward to comments from the Board.

The Town Board thanked Mr. Ladd stating that he did a tremendous amount of work. Supervisor Sennett said that her experience with receiving grants is that you really need to know where you are going. In order to do that a lot of homework has to be done before putting pen to paper. That is what has been going on with this committee. The research that Steve did is so important and will pay off when it comes time to write grants. She and the Town Board thanked Mr. Ladd for his work. Councilor Brace said the committee would not be anywhere without Steve Ladd.

*Resolution #15-085*

**Jordan Road Bridge Resolution:** On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the following resolution read by Councilor Brace was approved:

A Resolution granting a temporary easement to Onondaga County for the purpose of repairing and replacing the Jordan Road Bridge.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Skaneateles and its residents have been served by and rely upon Jordan Road as a means in to and out of and within the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, a portion of Jordan Road consists of a bridge over or near the outlet from Skaneateles Lake ("Bridge"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has been advised that the Bridge is in need of repair and replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government and Onondaga County have made funds available to repair and replace the Bridge, and to otherwise make improvements to the area, including, but not limited to, a pedestrian path, all at no cost to the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, Onondaga County has requested that the Town provide to it a temporary easement for purposes of facilitating the repair and replacement of the Bridge and the other improvements; and

**WHEREAS** the Town Board is desirous of accommodating the request of Onondaga County

**NOW, THEREFORE**, The Town Board of the Town of Skaneateles

**RESOLVES**, the Town Board finds that the Bridge repair and replacement is in the overall best interests of the Town and its residents; and

**FURTHER RESOLVES**, that the Town Board declares itself as Lead Agency for SEQR purposes and further determines that the grant of this easement would be a Type 2 action under SEQR Section 617.5 (c) (15) requiring no further review or findings; and

**FURTHER RESOLVES**, that the value of the Bridge repair and replacement, and the other improvements; are adequate consideration and of greater value than any inconvenience which may arise by the grant of a temporary easement; and

**FURTHER RESOLVES**, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to Onondaga County, a Statement of Donation, Agreement to Purchase Real Property and Easement Agreement, all as appear on the attached Schedule "A, subject to the results of a permissive referendum as required by New York law.

*Resolution #15-086*

**Skaneateles Fire Department 5K Road Race:** Supervisor Sennett said that the Skaneateles Fire Department is making a request to hold a 5K Road Race on Sunday September 6, 2015 at 4 p.m. This event was established previously by the SkanRaces as a final event of the Labor Day Race Weekend and the Skaneateles Fire Department has decided to be in charge of its continuance. The event will be insured and sanctioned by USA Track and Field and the Town and Village of Skaneateles will be named as additional insureds on this policy. Long time race directors, Dick Searing and Chris Legg have volunteered to organize and direct the Road Race. All details of the event have been submitted to Chief Perkins.

On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the request to hold the 5K Road Race on September 6, 2015 by the Skaneateles Fire Department was approved.

**Town Newsletter:** Supervisor Sennett knew that when the Skaneateles Historical Society sent out a notice that they would be doing their newsletter electronically, she knew she was on the right path in doing the same with the Town newsletter. She said she is sorry Julie Stenger is not here, because Julie is the one that did the research, did the work and put it together and has done a fabulous job. She researched platforms that could be used and decided she would work with a company called, Constant Contact. In presenting the website on the screen Supervisor Sennett noted that there are several links that will take visitors to additional information such as the farmers market and information on fishing and the NYS boater's guide. Supervisor Sennett also said that if you have texting abilities on your cell phone you can text 22828 and then type Skaneateles in the message. This will automatically sign you up to receive the Newsletter automatically. She said that we are working on adding a button on the Town's website at [www.townofskaneateles.com](http://www.townofskaneateles.com) to sign up for the newsletter. The Supervisor and Board thanked Julie Stenger for all the work she did on this. They were all very pleased. Supervisor Sennett said there will be paper copies available if requested.

*Resolution #15-087*

**Authorize Seasonal Lifeguards:** On a motion of Councilor Murray, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the following were authorized to be hired as lifeguards: *Angela Poccia, Collin Jones, John Dawley, Gabriella Scuderi, Samantha Annable, Griffin Lawson, Dana Ganley*

*Resolution #15-088*

**Town Department Schedules July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday:** The Town Board agreed to the following department schedules over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend:

Town Hall: Closed 1 p.m. July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 5<sup>th</sup>. Reopen 8 a.m. July 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Highway Depart: Closed July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 5<sup>th</sup>. Reopen 7 a.m. July 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Transfer Station: Closed July 4<sup>th</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup>. Reopen 7 a.m. July 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Water Department: Closed July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 5<sup>th</sup>. Reopen 6 a.m. July 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Resolution #15-089*

**Basketball Court Resurfacing Contract:** Supervisor Sennett said the contract is for the basketball court at the Skaneateles Falls Park. The Town Board approved this at budget time and Sue Murphy received three bids. Earth Road Asphalt was low bid at \$9,980.

Councilor Brace questioned the surface that would be used asking if it was an athletic surface. Supervisor Sennett said it is an asphalt surface, the same as the resurfacing done at Austin Park. Councilor Brace said there are other surfaces that might be a better option. Supervisor Sennett said that she has discussed this with both Sue Murphy and Gene LaForte and they believe this is the right material to use for the court.

On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Supervisor Sennett was authorized to sign the contract with Earth Road Asphalt in the amount of \$9,800.

*Resolution #15-090*

**Reschedule July 2<sup>nd</sup> Town Board Meeting:** On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Murray, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting of July 2<sup>nd</sup> is changed to 7 p.m. on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Resolution #15-091*

**Dry Hydrant Project – SEQR:** Supervisor Sennett said that in order to continue processing the Town's application to receive a \$100,000 State and Municipal Facilities grant for the dry hydrants they need the Town Board to make a SEQR determination.

On a motion of Supervisor Sennett, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the grant application for dry hydrants was determined to be a Type II Action under SEQR and not subject to further review.

**Proposal to Transplant Two Trees at Western Gateway:** Councilor Murray said that Gary Robinson from Rosalie's Restaurant had stated that he did not want trees planted in front of his property as part of the Western Gateway because he had so many trees in front of the restaurant that he did not need more. Councilor Murray said that his request somehow did not get noted and Mr. Robinson had notified her again regarding it. Fred Squires from Fingerlakes Landscape & Design, Inc. who was awarded the contract to put in the trees last fall submitted a proposal to remove the two trees, relocate the trees and to seed and topsoil the lawn at Rosalies for \$350 per tree. In addition, she heard from Richard Malcolm from Mirbeau stating that some of the trees in front of their place did not look healthy. She said Fred Squires is looking at several of the trees that suffered from the hard winter.

Councilor Brace said we have a two year warranty on the trees.

\*Dave Colegrove arrived.

Supervisor Sennett suggested that Mr. Squires coordinate with Councilor Murray, the NYSDOT and the tree committee on the designated new locations for the trees to be transplanted. She also said to check with the business at the new location to be sure they are in agreement. Then a new proposal should be submitted with the updated information.

Councilor Brace also wanted Mr. Squires to describe in writing what he will do about the damaged trees.

The Town Board agreed to have this on the June 18, 2015 agenda.

**Announcements/Correspondence/Updates**

▪*Conservation Area – Show-Me-Help-Me Field Trip: June 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.:* Supervisor Sennett reported that this is open to the public at the Skaneateles Conservation Area facilitated by Greg McGee, one of his PHD students and Randy Nonenmacher. A similar session on June 13<sup>th</sup> will be just for Wild Ones members, town officials and SCA committee members.

▪*Skaneateles Lake Watershed Municipal Leaders Meeting June 24<sup>th</sup>:* Supervisor Sennett said that this is the semi-annual Municipal Leaders meeting.

▪*Solarbration Event “Go Solar” at Fesko Dairy Farms on June 20<sup>th</sup>:* Supervisor Sennett said that Sunvestment Group will be hosting a tour and wine/beer and cheese tasting at the Fesko Farm on June 20<sup>th</sup> in honor of the Fesko Dairy Farm deciding to go solar.

▪*Fennell Street Parking:* Supervisor Sennett showed pictures of the area in front of the buildings used by the Parks Department. They placed barriers that the Town already owned around the area that public parking will be allowed. Nothing had to be purchased and this is to try to help the parking situation in the Village. The Chamber of Commerce is promoting this additional parking area and is encouraging local businesses to have their employee’s park there.

▪*Zoning Audit Update:* Supervisor Sennett said that the Town Board is not prepared to make a decision on this tonight but is referring it to the Chairs of the Planning and Zoning Boards and Karen Barkdull for their review and comments.

▪*Recognition of Louise Robinson – Land Trust Annual Meeting:* Supervisor Sennett noted that the recent Finger Lakes Land Trust Newsletter featured Louise Robinson and her daughters, including Councilor Howard, regarding her Conservation Easement Donation that will be recognized at the Land Trust annual meeting that will be held at Brook Farm, Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

▪*Parking in Front of Village Hall:* Dave Colegrove questioned if the new public parking area on Fennell Street is anywhere close in size to what is being eliminated in front of the Village Hall. Councilor Brace said they are not actually eliminating spaces because they are adding parking spaces in the back of Village Hall. Between the front and back they will have more spaces than is what is currently in the front. The Village will have a presentation at one of their future meetings. They want to illustrate the parking in the back as part of the overall plan. They are actually going to stripe the back so people know where to park. There is not a loss of parking, it is a relocation of parking. The parking in front of the Village Hall is going to be clarified because it is extremely unsafe where people are parking at times blocking other cars in and making it so that emergency vehicles can’t get through.

*Resolution #15-092*

**Abstract #15-11:** On a motion of Councilor Greenfield, seconded by Councilor Murray and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, vouchers # 15-0629 to #15-0671 from the following funds were approved:

General Fund:	\$9,543.74	Part Town:	\$ 312.81
Highway:	\$ 966.15	Highway P/T:	\$ 7,076.93
Lighting:	\$ 874.06	Water:	\$ 1,237.05

T & A: \$1,166.26

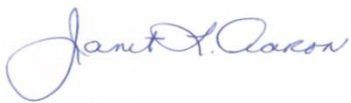
Total: \$21,177.00

*Resolution #15-092*

**Attorney Advice:** On a motion of Supervisor Sennett, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Attorney Advice at 8:25 p.m.

Meeting returned to open session and adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet L. Aaron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Janet L. Aaron  
Town Clerk