

# Regular Town Board Meeting – April 11, 2023

## 7 Community Circle 7:00pm – 8:40pm

For those wishing to call in, please use the number 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID 89393141055 Passcode 901005

### Attending

Roy Holzer – Supervisor

Darrin Forbes – Deputy Supervisor/Board Member

Tina Terry-Preston – Board Member

Tim Follo – Board Member

Michelle Preston – Board Member

Dawn Stevens – Town Clerk

**Also Attending** Mike Bowman, Paula Lyon, Bethany Kress, Celia Stephenson, Barb Funk, Tim Preston, Rebecca J Rondeau, Jim Kelly, Forest R Winch, Gail Mitchell, Dave Newman, John Strong, David Lally, Susan Hockert, Leah Walton, Donald Walton, Kristy Holzer, Doug Nemec, Sawyer Nemec, Betsy Smith, Pat Winch, Nancy Gonyea, Eric Diehl, Sarah Adams, Robin Anthony, Jeri Wright

Before the Meeting at 6:30pm the Board interviewed the last two people interested in the alternate position on the Planning Board.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Holzer at 7:00pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Resolution 36-2023** Resolved to accept the minutes of the March 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting.

**Moved by Roy Holzer Seconded by Darin Forbes**

Roy Holzer	<b>Aye</b>
Darin Forbes	<b>Aye</b>
Tina Terry-Preston	<b>Aye</b>
Michelle Preston	<b>Aye</b>
Tim Follo	<b>NO</b>

**Motion carried with four in favor one against.**

Board member Tim Follo made a motion to appoint Pat Winch to the alternate position of the Planning Board, there was no second, motion failed.

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Board Member Darin Forbes moved to appoint Jim Kelly to the alternate position of the Planning board.

**Resolution 37-2023** Resolved to appoint Jim Kelly to the alternate position on the Planning Board.

**Moved by** *Darin Forbes* **Seconded by** *Michelle Preston*

Roy Holzer **Aye**

Darin Forbes **Aye**

Tina Terry-Preston **Abstain**

Michelle Preston **Aye**

Tim Follos **NO**

**Motion carried with three in favor, one against, one abstain**

**Resolution 38-2023** Resolved to appoint a committee to offer suggestions to the board on improving the towns STR regulations.

**Moved By** *Roy Holzer* **Seconded By** *Darin Forbes* **All in Favor**

**Resolution 39-2023** Resolved to form a Cannabis Committee. This committee will offer suggestions to the board on local rules to be added to the zoning codes book.

**Moved by** *Tina Terry-Preston* **Seconded by** *Michelle Preston* **All in Favor**

*Update on the Facilities use Lease Agreement. It has been turned over to Jen Briggs to review, we should hear something soon.*

**Resolution 40-2023** Resolved to appoint Rarilee Conway to the Grievance Board (B.A.R.).

**Moved by** *Tim Follos* **Seconded by** *Tina Terry-Preston* **All in Favor**

**Resolution 41-2023** Resolved that the Town of Wilmington opposes the passage of Conservation Subdivision Design Bill A04608 and corresponding Senate bill.

**Moved by** *Roy Holzer* **Seconded by** *Darin Forbes* **All in Favor Except Tim Follos, who Abstained.**

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**Resolution 42-2023** Resolved to have the Beach Restrooms roof repaired by JFP Enterprises for a total of \$12617.00. This will be paid from insurance and occupancy tax funds.

**Moved by Tina Terry-Preston Seconded by Darin Forbes All in Favor**

*The Youth Group is holding a Clean-up Day April 22,2023, they are also working on plans for the summer programs. They asked the board if someone could be hired to help coordinate programs for July and August a couple of days a week, they also have volunteers that would be available. The board is looking into options to help achieve this.*

*The approval of the expenses and transfers will be done on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.*

*The Highway Department is holding a Open House on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00pm till 12:00pm.*

**Resolution 43-2023** Resolved to pay off the excavator out of the equipment fund, approximately \$25,000.

**Moved by Darin Forbes Seconded by Tina Terry-Preston All in Favor**

**Highway Superintendent** Louie Adragna informed the town he would like to replace the 1998 John Deer, he will be getting specs on a new machine. He also stated that they hope to be able to pave  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile on the Hardy Road this year.

**Resolution 44-2023** Resolved to allow the use of the Youth Center Building on Tuesday at 7:30am - 8:30am for Yoga classes. The town will be paid \$25.00 a week for the use of the building.

**Moved by Michelle Preston Seconded by Darin Forbes All in Favor**

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**RESOLUTION 45-2023** Resolved to sign purchase agreement for Homestead Housing property with Junelynn Coarding and Clayton Walton. Total purchase price is \$90,000 with a \$5,000 deposit. Funds for property will come from a Northern Borders grant.

**Moved by** *Michelle Preston*    **Seconded by** *Darin Forbes*

*Supervisor Holzer- Aye*

*Deputy Supervisor Forbes-Aye*

*Tina Terry-Preston – Aye*

*Tim Follos- Aye*

*Michelle Preston - Aye*

**Motion carried all in favor.**

**Resolution 46-2023** Resolved to contract with Gregg Pawlowski, to survey the Homestead housing property for an estimate of \$5800. He has an annual contract with the County which we can use under the Letter of Agreement.

Further resolved to test the site for hazardous materials in the soil. This will be done by Atlantic Testing LLC. A sole source service provider, at a cost of about \$9100.

All of the above-mentioned costs will be covered under the **Grant Program NBRC.**

**Moved by** *Darin Forbes*    **Seconded by** *Tim Follos*    **All in Favor**

**RESOLUTION 47-2023** Resolved to grant permission to the Wilmington Historical Society to Hold a Raffle and or silent auction of Whiskey on Preston Festival Field to benefit the Wilmington Historical Society at the Whiskey Run on June 17, 2023

**Moved by** *Michelle Preston*    **Seconded by** *Darin Forbes*    **All in favor.**

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**RESOLUTION 48-2023** Resolved to give permission to the Au Sable River Association to use our Town Beach on Saturday April 22 for their Annual Au Sable River Clean Up. Further resolve to take debris collected in Wilmington at the cleanup at our transfer station at no charge to the organization.

**Moved by-** *Darin Forbes* **Seconded-** *Michelle Preston* **All in favor**

Supervisor Holzer stated he needed direction from the Board on the Request from the Town Assessors to adopt a Sliding scale on Senior Citizens Property Tax bills. The exemption is available to seniors currently making 25,000 or less. If we adopt a sliding scale, we can set a larger amount so seniors would get some kind of relief.

Town Of Wilmington

Assessor Office

7 Community Center

Wilmington, NY 12997

March 8, 2023

ATTN: Roy Holzer and the Wilmington Town Board

RE: Age It All, Senior Tax Savings

We are writing to ask the Town of Wilmington consider adopting a sliding scale for the Age It All property tax program. To date Wilmington participates in the Age It All Program. This allows senior property owners an additional tax savings on their Town/County and School Tax. If a Senior owns property and their income is \$25,000 or less per year, they qualify for the Age It All savings. But if a Senior makes \$25,001, they can't receive any additional savings. If the town were to adopt the sliding scale, it would allow those Seniors on very limited income to still receive some additional savings toward their tax liabilities. To date three other townships in our County, participate in the sliding scale savings benefit.

We have attached a copy that lists all townships in our county. This will show you what dollar amount caps are used and who participates in the sliding scale. The current savings for those who qualify for Age It All receive 50% off their town/county and school tax. They also receive their Star Credit on their school tax. By adopting this program, you could be giving seniors that are struggling to get by, relief and a little less worry that they can still stay in their home. As property assessments continue to skyrocket and the percentage per thousand not going down, we are putting our Seniors in a position of choosing food, heat, and having a home. Please consider adopting this savings program for some of our poorest, and most important community members.

Thank you,

Alphonso Smith

Chair Of the Board of Assessors

Marcel Bruce

Assessor

Bianche Peck

Assessor

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**Resolution 49-2023** Resolved to raise the Senior Exemption on property tax to \$33,399. This will be done on a sliding scale.

**Moved by** *Tim Follis* **Seconded by** *Tina Terry-Preston* **All in favor**

### **SUPERVISORS REPORT for Town Board Meeting 4/11/2023**

#### **Updates**

I want to thank our Easter Committee. We had a great event. Thanks are extended to Michelle Preston, Tina Terry, Becky Holzer, Paula Lyon & Ashton Winch for an awesome event.

The date of Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> has been set for our OPEN HOUSE of the Highway Garage. The open house will be between 10 am to 12 pm.

Our facilities Use Permit Form is with our Town Attorney Jen Briggs for review.

The Town Board work session will be on Wednesday April 26. The work session will be at 4pm

Zoom Computer Set up will be the last week of this month. We should be able to be online and operating Zoom meetings by our May meeting.

The Town has received the balance due us from ROOST for the 2022 Community Enhancement Fund for \$87,464.38. When Nicole returns from Vacation, I will provide the board with an updated amount in this fund. I believe it should be between \$260,000 and \$270,000.

I have recently been contacted by Town residents concerning a survey being mailed out to selected citizens in the community. Please note that this is a private survey and is not being conducted by the town of Wilmington.

**Codes** – Two new Building Permits issued, \$3351.00 fees collected, Fifty-five open permits, thirty plus site visits. STR update ninety-five permits issued, ten more in progress. Total fees collected were \$43,000.

**Water-** The Town of Wilmington passed the annual water inspection.

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*Darin Forbes suggested the town start looking at upgrading the park playground equipment. All agreed it is needed. He also suggested the Board should look into compensation for Merri Carol Peck, who is now and has been for many years an unpaid Town Historian.*

*Board Member Darin Forbes also moved the following Resolution.*

**Resolution 50-2023** Resolved to increase the spending limit for the Highway Department From \$1000. To \$2000. This is due to the increase in the price of parts, tires, cutting edge, etc.

**Moved by Darin Forbes Seconded by Michelle Preston**

Roy Holzer – **Aye**

Darin Forbes – **Aye**

Tina Terry-Preston – **Aye**

Tim Follos – **Abstain**

Michelle Preston **-Aye**

*Board Member Tina Terry-Preston asked where we stood on getting the donation boxes for the Beach and the Youth Center Park. The Parks department is still looking for the best option, However it was discussed that the one going to the Beach should be used to offset the Beach expenses and improvements. The one placed at the Youth Center Park should be used to help support the youth group.*

*It was also stated that we are still looking for additional Lifeguards for the beach.*

### Visitors Bureau Report

The Annual Two Fly Activities will begin on Thursday May 18. The Beach Party, 2 Fly Fishing Welcome party kick off is OPEN TO ALL, not just contestants. This year the features are starting at 6:00pm. The music will be by Big Boss Sausage and there will be Food Trucks Bonfires and Beer. On Friday May 19th the Fly Tyers Reception will be held at Rudy's 6-9, there will also be live demonstrations. The music will be provided by Grey Wolf.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Uphill foot and bike race will be held. We are looking for Volunteers for this event. This year

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There will be an opportunity for local groups to earn money for their organizations.

Farmers Market is starting June 20th— Tuesdays 10-2. We have a new vendor, Triple Green Jade Farm — offering beef, poultry, eggs, bakery items, flour, pasta....

There are 7 confirmed weekly vendors and 2 biweeklies, many more that are interested and will confirm later, we are also looking for weekly music artists.

We have a new logo, and a new Facebook page “Farmer’s Market of Wilmington NY” will be uploading logos and information about vendors as they send information in.

Dates to save

**Town Wide yard sale - August 12th**

**Town Get Together — August 19th**

*Board Member Michelle Preston summary*

\*Collecting database for more effective means of getting information out to the public. Please add your name to the email list if you wish to be included in this.

\*Attended a Leadership training online seminar entitled “How to overcome a Dysfunctional Board” by Joan Garry a well-known author and philanthropist. I found it to be very educational and hope to use some of her suggestions in the future.

\*Last week I participated in a Live Video Podcast with Jake Gill from Live Music Nation.

Information provided to me about Jake Gill

Here is some more information about the podcast and our host.

The podcast is distributed worldwide via social media, YouTube, and streaming services. We have over 500 episodes in circulation. We host regional segments to help educate our listeners about live events and social gatherings, both which have been shown by research to be a part of healthy lives.

Our host JAKE GILL has over 80,000 followers on social media with well over 75 million likes. His goal is to further advance the position and importance of live events in the world. His podcast is and always will be free to you with the goal stated above.



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We should be receiving the footage by this next week and will have all the rights to it so we can share it or market it however we please. I had the opportunity to talk about our Music Fest and the Festival of Colors then provide our website as well.

*Board Member Tim Follos suggested that the Staining that needs to be done in the park and at the beach, be paid for by the occupancy tax funds.*

*Board Member Follos also made the following statement and asked it to be entered in the minutes. He felt this better explained his position on STRs in the Nov.10,2022 minutes and the January 10,2023 minutes.*

*Tim Follos discussed fees on whole-home vacation rentals. He stated that AirDNA reports that Wilmington currently has 162 vacation rentals of which 135 are whole-home rentals. He stated that AirDNA reports that the average number of bedrooms in Wilmington's STRs is 2.6.*

*He stated that town spending is expected to increase by \$56,000 in 2023. He stated that a \$500. Annual fee on whole-house STRs in Wilmington would raise approximately \$67,500. annually; a \$400. Annual fee on whole-home STRs in Wilmington would raise approximately \$54,000. annually; and a \$300. Fee on whole-home STRs in Wilmington would raise approximately \$40,500. annually. He stated that a \$100. Annual 'per bedroom' fee on whole-home STRs in Wilmington would raise Approximately \$35,100. Annually.*

*With the approach of Arbor Day Jim Kelly Offered himself and his crew to do more volunteer work for the town by taking care of some problem trees. Jim Kelly has done a lot of volunteer work cutting trees for the town in the past. He also spoke of a Arbor Grant he is looking into which would benefit the town.*

*Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Dawn Stevens*

*Town Clerk*