

MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF POUND RIDGE HELD AT 179 WESTCHESTER AVENUE, POUND RIDGE, NEW YORK, AND VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE, COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR KEVIN HANSAN
COUNCILPERSON CARLA BRAND
COUNCILPERSON ALISON BOAK
COUNCILPERSON DIANE BRIGGS

ALSO

PRESENT: TOWN ATTORNEY WILLIAM HARRINGTON
DEPUTY SUPERVISOR LES MARON
TOWN CLERK ERIN TROSTLE

ABSENT: COUNCILPERSON DANIEL PASCHKES

I. CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Hansan called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

II. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Brand, all voting aye, to call for an executive session immediately following the special meeting to discuss a legal matter.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Bedford Central School District's trustee election and budget vote is today.
- The first Food Truck Friday of the year is this Friday, May 20, 2022, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

IV. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye, to call for an executive session on June 2, 2022, at 7:00 pm to discuss a legal and a personnel matter.

V. MINUTES

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye, to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2022 Town Board meeting.

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VI. PUBLIC HEARING – Regarding proposals to ban or restrict the use of gas-powered leaf blowers

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Boak, all voting aye, to continue the public hearing adjourned on May 10, 2022.

Gordon and Polly Schnell, of 255 Eastwoods Road, submitted comments in support of Councilperson Brand's proposed change to the noise ordinance.

Alan Peterman, of 184 Barnegat Road, submitted comments in which he indicated that while he had hoped for a complete ban on leaf blowers, he supports Councilwoman Brand's proposal.

Michele Rudolph and Marc Vandenhoeck, of 116 Eastwoods Road, also wrote in support of Councilperson Brand's proposed changes to the noise ordinance, as did Marc Yaggi and Sarah Douglass, of 63 Hack Green Road, and Peter Cole, of 116 Eastwoods Road.

Jared Silbersher, of 22 Sherwood Road, expressed opposition to amending the noise ordinance on the grounds that satisfactory alternatives to gas-powered equipment are not available.

Kris Bria, of 86 Fancher Road, wrote that noise from commercial use of gas-powered leaf blowers has increased exponentially in recent years. She urged the Board to restrict and eventually ban their use. John Bria, also of 86 Fancher Road, submitted comments expressing concerns about noise pollution and advocating for a ban on gas-powered blowers.

Josh Marchetti, of 25 High Ridge Road, pointed out that the proposed legislation exempts the golf course from restrictions and limitations. He proposed instead that members of the Community Appeal for Leaf Blower Moderation (CALM) pay fair market value to purchase gas-powered equipment owned by other residents and that CALM members use hand tools such as rakes to maintain properties throughout town, including the golf course.

Peter Marchetti, of 25 High Ridge Road, noted that the mining, transporting, and processing of materials used to manufacture batteries is much more polluting than

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the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. He also observed that banning gas-powered blowers would impose significant costs on homeowners and refuted claims regarding health concerns and the bird population.

Alec Ulmann, of 68 Old Stone Hill Road, advocated for changes to the noise ordinance, pointing out that year-round blower use is unnecessary and citing negative impacts on health and property values. Lindsay Ulmann, also of 68 Old Stone Hill Road, wrote to express support for a ban. She noted that blowers are often used for prolonged periods, subjecting neighbors to excessive noise.

Michael and Olga Kagan, of 51 Old Stone Hill Road, submitted comments in favor of Councilperson Brand's proposal. They also stated that they had purchased an electric leaf blower for their landscaper to use.

Dale Ledbetter, Jr., of 122 High Ridge Road, submitted comments opposing banning or restricting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on private property. He pointed out that most environmental pollution has other causes and objected to policies that would dictate how homeowners maintain their own property.

David and Laura Schutzbank, of 21 Hoyt Road, submitted comments expressing opposition to a ban. They advocated instead for a "middle-ground solution" based in fact that would restrict hours. They also noted that many gas-powered blowers have zero- or low-exhaust emissions and are thus cleaner than what the EPA requires.

Rachel Weissmann, of 39 Rolling Meadow Lane, stated that she favors banning or at least restricting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on the grounds that they make it impossible to enjoy nature and that they contribute to global warming. She encouraged residents to consider alternative approaches to gardening and landscaping, including rakes.

Gina Federico, of 47 Bender Way, submitted comments in support of Councilperson Brand's proposal. She stated that despite start-up costs, electric equipment is less expensive in the long run. Advocating for consideration toward neighbors, she suggested that time devoted to blowing might better be spent performing other tasks that would enhance properties.

John Cosetti, of 195 Eastwoods Road, submitted comments in support of restrictions on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

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Roseann Vuotto, of 119 Cross Pond Road, wrote to express support for CALM and its proposal. She stated that noise pollution from landscaping activity has compromised her quality of life, prevented her from enjoying the outdoors, and harmed the environment.

Megan Bates, of 25 Siscowit Road, expressed support for Councilperson Brand's proposed changes to the noise ordinance.

Dan Delventhal, CEO of MowGreen, LLC, a company that provides lawn-care services in Pound Ridge and elsewhere, stated that gas-powered leaf blowers should be banned. He is able to charge competitive rates while using only battery- and human-powered equipment, and he noted that while electric equipment may cost more to acquire, it is much less expensive to operate.

Joanne Mineo, of 110 Salem Road, wrote to support restrictions on gas-powered leaf blowers, stating that leaf blowers are intrusive and overused, with negative consequences for health and the environment. She pointed out that a ban would be consistent with the town's stated goals as a Climate-Smart Community.

Leslie and Lawrence Gottlieb, of 28 Kinnicutt Road East, wrote to express support for Councilperson Brand's proposal.

John McCown, of 25 Miller Road, reported that the productivity gap between gas- and battery-powered blowers is two to one and that banning gas-powered blowers will likely double landscaping costs. He said he would appreciate having a cost analysis of the town's switch to electric blowers and stated that opinions expressed in the public hearing demonstrate a lack of majority support for a ban.

Steven Vandervelen, of 15 Nancys Lane, argued that Councilperson Brand's proposal should be tabled and stated that the focus on leaf blowers is arbitrary. He expressed the view that there is no need to change the noise ordinance and cautioned against letting a minority of residents sway policy decisions.

Laurel Berger, of 79 Trinity Pass, wrote in support of restrictions, citing noise, health, environmental, and quality-of-life impacts. She has been pleased with her own electric lawn equipment and hopes Pound Ridge will follow the actions of nearby towns.

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John Grogan, of 14 Kinnicutt Road East, expressed support for Councilperson Brand's proposal and stated that Supervisor Hansan's proposal does not go far enough. He expressed the view that a ban on gas-powered blowers would be similar to the ban on smoking. Citing noise impacts, Mr. Grogan stated that a ban would demonstrate empathy toward neighbors.

Gene Grogan, also of 14 Kinnicutt Road East, submitted comments in which he stated that Pound Ridge CALM's petition regarding leaf blowers has garnered 181 signatures from residents.

Joe and Brenda Jeselnik, of 61 White Birch Road, noted in written comments that the power stored in batteries often comes from coal, diesel, and natural gas sources. They also called attention to the exception for the golf course, objecting that proposed restrictions would fall unfairly on homeowners.

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Brand, seconded by Councilperson Boak, to close the public hearing.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Receiver of Taxes – Permission to attend NYSATR seminar

RESOLUTION 107-22

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Brand, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Receiver of Taxes to attend the New York State Association of Tax Receivers 2022 Training Seminar scheduled for June 12–15, 2022, at a cost not to exceed \$1,112.08.

B. Recreation – Accept resignation of Patricia Marino

RESOLUTION 108-22

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Boak, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts the resignation of Senior Office Assistant Patricia Marino, effective May 20, 2022.

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C. Town Clerk – Standard Workday Resolution

Councilperson Briggs indicated that she would like to submit a new Record of Activities, so the matter was tabled.

D. Landmarks and Historic District Commission – Appoint new member

RESOLUTION 109-22

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby appoints Chris Shaffer to fill a vacant seat on the Landmarks and Historic District Commission for the remainder of the calendar year.

E. Economic Development Committee – Approval for banner purchase

RESOLUTION 110-22

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Brand, seconded by Councilperson Boak, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the purchase of sixteen additional streetlight banners at a cost of \$770.00, to be paid from the Economic Development Committee's budget line.

VIII. FINANCIAL MATTERS – Pay bills

RESOLUTION 111-22

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, the motion passing 4-0 with Councilperson Brand abstaining:

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay the claims listed below.

Fund	Claim Numbers	Total Amount
General Fund	408–414	\$1,431,269.56

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- IX. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Board, Supervisor Hansan adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.
- X. RECONVENE AS PARKING DISTRICT:** Supervisor Hansan called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm.
- XI. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no business to come before the Board, Supervisor Hansan adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

Erin Trostle, Town Clerk
Dated at Pound Ridge, New York
May 26, 2022