

MINUTES
TOWN OF EAST FISHKILL
SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR
HILLSIDE LAKE PARK DISTRICT
MARCH 1, 2018
7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of East Fishkill's Public Hearing for Hillside Lake Park District on March 1, 2018 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor D'Alessandro with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: Supervisor D'Alessandro asked Town Clerk Hurray to call the rolls.

Board Members in Attendance were

Peter	Thomas	Emanuele	Nicolas
Cassidy	Franco	Marinero	D'Alessandro

Also in attendance were:

Tom Wood, Attorney; and Scott Bryant, Engineer.

Motion to Open the Public Hearing: Board Member Franco. Seconded: Board Member Marinero. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor D'Alessandro state they have met with the residents of Hillside Lake several different times and have gone through several different plans that have been proposed. Engineer Bryant will be giving a presentation on the currently proposed plan.

Engineer Bryant gave a broad stroke presentation starting with the 1930's construction of the summer community, to include the creation of the Park District in 1992, the 2002 NYS DEC list of impaired waters due to phosphorus and it included the grants that were awarded. In 2017 the Hillside Lake community residents voted to dissolve the park district and now the Town is considering accepting Hillside Lake as a "Town Wide Passive Recreation Space" and making improvements to the lake. This plan has been a work in progress. The main points include: deep sumps around the perimeter, bar screens are to be installed, modified rain gardens installed, freezing and draining the lake to remove vegetation over a few winters. Sediment will be removed and the swim area will be filled in. That is due to the condition of the dam. A new outlet control structure will be installed. There will be no valves. An artificial wetland will be installed as part of the Renewage DEC Stormwater Grant. It will treat approximately 50% of

the volume of the water over time. They are going to attempt to regrade the lake and hopefully deepen some areas to maintain fish in the lake. He presented photos of the planned rain gardens and the sediment baffles in the catch basins. There were graphics of what the proposed Renewage filter area would look like. There will be floating micro-wetlands into the lake for treatment also. There was a tentative budget showing grant applications and in house work, using the highway department. The net cost to the Town is approximately \$625,000, which will be done over several years. First, they have to finalize the dissolution of the district. They then have to meet with DEC to go over required permits. They hope to have the first drains installed by next winter for the first freeze cycle and in 2019 start moving the vegetation around. The idea is to have it completed by 2023. They will be looking to implement a septic law for Hillside Lake regarding having tanks cleaned, emptied and inspected at least once every four years. There is a septic law that has been enacted for the Stormville area in the DEC water shed. They will be looking to do something similar to that. He showed slides for water gardens and drainage that homeowners could do to assist with any sediment that may come from their properties. A copy of the December 2015 grant was included for the community's review. It is good thru January 1, 2020. It could be extended if needed. The DASNY grant does not have an expiration. The DEC had made recommendations regarding the dam and that was also included. There will be a presentation made to them also.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated that they met with Renewage yesterday to discuss the project and timeline changes. They discussed the possibility of additional grants. The deadline for submitting additional requests is June. The timeline for the work to be done on the DEC grant is in 2019, so it's before the expiration date. They want to get through three cycles of winter freeze before they do the work covered on the DASNY grant. The dam removal is the important part of this project and is high on the mitigation list. Hopefully DEC will agree with the Town's proposal and they can move forward with the timeline. The Highway Department is very important to this project also. There is the possibility of the Highway Department doing the work for the DEC grant, but they want to be sure the Town is compensated for it. This is a living timeline. If there are problems or issues, it could affect the timeline. He is happy with the positive meetings that have happened with the Hillside Lake community. This plan is the plan that they will vote on. He asked if there were questions or comments from Town Board members.

Board Member Franco thanked Engineer Bryant for his work on this. He stated his biggest concern is the grants and they need to continue to look for additional grants for this project. He does like this plan as proposed.

Board Member Marinaro stated this plan has been discussed with the community and he feels it is a good plan. He hopes they can maintain the timeline. It will be a great thing for the community.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated they will supply more information to the residents as time goes on regarding the Hillside Lake Water Shed Protection Ordinance for the inspection of the septic systems. There will be a Public Hearing for that as time goes on. He asked if there was anyone from the public with questions or comments.

Keith Dimaso thanked the Board for their contribution and work on this.

Mary Ellen Smolinsky thanked Engineer Bryant for the detailed presentation and the Board for listening. She is grateful that it is going forward.

Kyle Austin asked how this proposal was related to the one that was voted down before and what the pros/cons were to the swimming hole.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated the prior proposal was for a complete dredging and recreation facility on the lake. When they had community discussions with the residents, it seemed the number one item was that the residents wanted the lake to look good. This plan is financially do-able and will improve the property values for the homeowners.

Engineer Bryant stated that for an area to be a town swimming area, it requires lifeguards and rescue equipment. They had two choices. The first was to reconstruct the dam to today's standards which would include engineering that could not be done in house and would incur additional expenses. Filling it in as a passive area removed having to deal with the dam, which is the option they are presenting.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated the dam is a big issue for the town and it's more cost effective to get rid of it.

Michael Wahlers thanked the Board for moving forward with this project and a clear presentation. He asked about sediment baffles and catch basins and Engineer Bryant stated one would be in the sump that was installed 2 years ago and they are looking at new structures with deep sumps. They will try to get a grant for that. Mr. Wahlers asked about the gravel wetland filters. Engineer Bryant said they'd be near the beach area. Mr. Wahlers asked about the uses for the existing grants and the timeline. He asked about the proposed septic law.

Resident #1 stated the community voted no for this project and is not happy about this going forward to make a recreation area for one community.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated this is a different project from what was on the ballot in November. No matter what happens with the lake, the Town has a responsibility to fix the dam. With the Highway Department doing a lot of the work, that will save a lot of money.

Keith Dimaso stated this is about town storm water that has had an impact on the lake and it isn't about recreation. He thinks it's a practical use of funds. He thanked the Board for their efforts.

Resident #2 stated that the repair to the lake will increase the property values and that will benefit the entire town. He asked about the removal of the vegetation and the type of vegetation. Engineer Bryant stated it will be removed in the summer. It will be drained for that. DEC will be involved with what type of vegetation it is. Resident #2 asked about the possibility of having volunteers help with the vegetation removal. Engineer Bryant stated it was one of the prior suggestions, especially for the maintenance of the water gardens and rain gardens.

Robert Grasso asked if there was anything that could interfere with going forward with this.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated that they will close the Public Hearing tonight and at the March 22 voting meeting, vote on it.

Resident #3 thanked the Board. She stated all the residents in Hillside Lake are tax payers also. She said that Renewage has said that the quality of the water of the lake improving should improve their well water. She asked if there would be a change in the sanding trucks in the area during the winter. Supervisor D'Alessandro stated the Highway Superintendent is working on putting the metered trucks into that area. She asked how much water would be filtered in total and Engineer Bryant stated with the aeration and filtration it would be about 50%. She asked about putting the special carp into the lake. She asked about the lake being empty after the freeze cycles and Supervisor D'Alessandro said they would have to work on this on a case by case basis. Resident #3 asked about remaining funds in the Park District account and the Supervisor said they would be put in the General Fund to be put towards the work that will be going on there. Supervisor D'Alessandro stated the Town's goal is clean water in the town. They will apply for whatever grants are available.

Mrs. Baker thanked everyone for their work. She said education of the people in the water shed and the whole town on how to maintain their sewers is necessary. She said there were lifeguards at the lake back in the 60's – 90's.

Resident #4 said she appreciates the condition of the roads. She asked how deep the lake was. Engineer Bryant stated about three feet.

Mr. Lowe thanked the Board for moving forward. He stated the Town voted on a three million dollar bond issue that was voted down. This project will have some town benefit but it's only a \$600,000 project over many years.

Supervisor D'Alessandro asked if there was anyone else to speak. There was no one. He stated they tried to do the best they could with the funds available. He thanked all the Town Professionals for all their work on this project.

Board Member Marinaro thanked the community for coming out and voicing their opinions.

Motion to close the Public Hearing: Board Member Marinaro. Seconded: Board Member Franco. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion for Adjournment: Time: Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:10 PM: Board Member Cassidy. Seconded: Board Member Franco. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Town Board Meetings: **March 8, 2018 - Workshop**
 March 22, 2018 – Regular Meeting

Respectfully Submitted by Julie J. Beyer on behalf of Town Clerk Carol A. Hurray
– March 17, 2018