

Unofficial Minutes of the Germantown Town Board

I (Kay Abraham) attended the Town Board meeting Monday evening, It was a short, fairly uneventful meeting, much to the happiness of those who made room for it in their lives on a cold night in a busy week.

The meeting was called to order on time and the minutes were approved for several past meetings. The audited bills were moved to be paid. There were several written communications to the Board, which were read by Town clerk, Charlene Diehl:

Nancy Rumke wrote to say thanks to the Highway Department for the recent culvert work on the road near her house.

Robert Beaury wrote to resign from the Zoning Board of Appeals because of his new position as Town Justice.

Joel Craig wrote to resign from the Planning Board because of his new duties on the Town Board. He thanked those with whom he served and said that he had learned from the “accumulated wisdom and knowledge” of those he worked with.

George Sharpe wrote to praise the work of the Highway Department in the past weeks and their diligence in the face of the two recent storms. “A tip of the hat to the Town Board and the Town employees.”

Richard Scott (GraceAnn’s partner) wrote to complain about the “mob attitude” displayed by the public towards the Town Board Members in an attempt to bully them. He referred to their conduct as “caterwauling” and said some tried to portray themselves as victims. Quotes Pete Lopez who said at a meeting that the “Comprehensive Plan was just a warm fuzzy way of telling folks how to live.” He went on to defend the Republican candidates saying they didn’t get the revised Comprehensive Plan until after the election, so they were justified in feeling that the townspeople were threatened by 5- and 10-acre zoning. And if the Democrats had won a majority nothing would stand in their way of reverting the wording back to include the 5- and 10- acres zoning after they took office.

In Committee Reports

Keep Farming: Charles Abraham reports that the tri-town committee was in hiatus and will begin to form new committees to examine their findings of the past year and to devise action plans to make some goals reality. Reports plans to renovate the old Hoettling building on Rte. 9, (north of Rte. 6 junction) into a store that will feature local products as much as possible. Roy thanks Keep Farming committee for their work.

Revitalization committee: Greg Fingar is away: no report, however Roy says it had met in December and was working.

Sidewalk committee: Germantown finally received the approved contracts from NY State for them to begin moving ahead with planning for the sidewalk installation. Hoyt-Albert Associates is the engineering firm the town has chosen to develop detailed plans for construction.

Parking Law Resolution: Town Board endorsed a new law. Local Law 3, authorizing the Highway Supervisor to determine, based on conditions and predicted conditions, when a Snow Emergency existed and to allow him to tow and impound cars that are left on Town streets in violation of the emergency conditions. Fee would be \$100.00 plus towing and storage costs. This requires a public hearing before it can be enacted. January 28 at 6 PM is set for the hearing.

Intermunicipal Agreement: This agreement has been rewritten which states that the municipalities of Germantown Livingston and Clermont will act cooperatively whenever possible.

Late December Meeting: A meeting has been scheduled for 12:00 Noon, December 28, 2007 for the purpose of closing out the budget year and paying all necessary 2007 bills.

Terranova: Roy Brown tells audience that Mr. Terranova is happy to wait until the Rezoning effort is finished before proceeding with his development plans.

Jerry Smith, Joel Craig and Grace Ann Lamberta are sworn in as Board Members so that they can act if necessary prior to the January 7 date (but after January 1 when their term begins) that has been set for the Reorganization Meeting.

Public Comment:

Joel thanks the many people who made the Holiday Parade possible and successful.

Corrine Curry thanks the Revitalization committee for their efforts to decorate the empty store windows in a holiday theme. Says she is saddened by the Town Board not adopting the Comprehensive Plan.

Harold Farberman makes a long thoughtful and eloquent statement about the “splits” within the town, asking that the Town move forward from its current divisiveness to a town that can use the word “we” in a meaningful way. He pleads for more inclusiveness and a retreat from prejudice.

Bruce Bohnsack says there was no “conspiracy” to withhold the Comprehensive Plan final draft. They were awaiting the comments from the ZBA.

Tom Bower (of the ZBA) responds to a letter (author not cited) that he said claimed the ZBA was without the proper tools they needed to do the job right. He said they have everything they need to do a good job.

Larry Osgood asks if the Town Budget has the money allocated for its share of the cost of the sidewalk. Roy assures him that it is “adequate.” The law stipulates that the town pays for 100%

of certain preliminary costs but the Federal Government, through the State Dept of Transportation, will reimburse the town 80% of the expense.

Jerry Smith asks if the procedure for selecting the engineering firm was done as required. Roy tells him that the whole procedure is prescribed by the Federal guidelines that were followed carefully.

Meeting adjourned. 8:45

Minutes by Kay Abraham, Chair of the Germantown Democratic Organization