



COUNCILMAN HORTON



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Bi-Weekly Newsletter

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Intent:

A concern that continues to surface amongst the public is the lack of communication between government and the members of the community in which that body of government operates. Open communication, or lack thereof, between elected officials and the citizens not only contributes to speculation and misinformation on issues, but also increases the divide and distrust between government and the people that the governing body serves. The time for correcting this issue is long overdue.

This newsletter offers a fact-based and bipartisan exchange of information in effort to assist the people of the community with staying up-to-date and informed on the issues concerning Saugerties. In addition to social media accounts, local bulletins, and the town website, this will be another resource for people to reference to better inform themselves on what has happened, what is happening, what will be happening, and information regarding upcoming events. The idea is that this resource outlines the most pressing issues relating to Saugerties. However, all other issues can and will be reported on based on the demand and feedback from the community.

Short Term Rentals:

On Saturday March 12th, from 9:00am-12:00pm, the Town Board hosted a workshop at Town Hall regarding short term rentals (STRs). Present at this meeting were all Town Board members, the Saugerties Town Clerk, the Town Planner, a representative from the Comprehensive Planning Committee, the town attorney, the Building Inspector, and a handful of people from the public. This meeting was also offered online, and several people from the community attended virtually as well.

The purpose of this special meeting was to collectively determine the best way to move forward, whether that be tackling

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this issue using special use permits (SUPs) or by adopting a local law specific to STRs. After approximately three hours of open discussion, the Town Board opted to move forward with Town of Saugerties Short Term Rental Law Draft. This consensus was reached on the basis that board felt that this course of action was the best way to support both the members of the community that have concerns about the operations of STRs, as well as those who participate and operate STRs.

Once the review of the draft language is completed, the public can expect a public hearing regarding STRs and the proposed law. At this time, a public hearing date has not been confirmed, but that date will be shared once it has been confirmed. Please check the town website, Facebook, or refer to upcoming versions of this newsletter for that designated public hearing date.

Recreational Marijuana:

Just before the turn of the new year, the prior board voted to opt out of the recreational marijuana use, both in the form of retail dispensaries and consumption sites (also referred to as lounges). After that decision was made, petitioning began on behalf of retail locations and lounges. Per New York State, petitioners had 45 days from the time the Town Board voted to opt out to submit petitions to the Town Clerk.

On February 11th, 2022, two petitions were submitted to the Town Clerk protesting Local Law #8 of 2021 of the Town of Saugerties, "Opting out of Adult Use Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and On-Site Cannabis Consumptions Sites." The purpose of these petitions was to request that said local law be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town of Saugerties as a referendum on the ballot during this November's election.

After thorough review by the Town Clerk, it was determined that these two petitions were invalid. There were not enough signatures collected to proceed to a referendum, which would have appeared in November's general election ballot.

Upcoming Events & Information:

Town Board Meeting:

- Wednesday, April 6th
- Agenda (TBD)

New York State Special Olympics Fundraising Event:

- Cornhole tournament
- Sunday, May 22nd, 12pm-5pm
- Will be held at Cantine Field
- Retail space for vendors
- Food trucks
- Live entertainment



For This Event Contact:
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Upstate Films/Orpheum Theater:

- Third Thursday of each month
- All proceeds from popcorn sales are donated to a local not-for-profit partner
- Please visit the town website for further information <https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org>

Saugerties Youth Recreation Program

- Beginning on Tuesday, July 5th
- Ending on Friday, August 12th

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- Please visit the town website to view details <https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org>

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Virtual public hearing will be held on Monday, April 4th, 2022, at 7 p.m.
- Public hearing on proposed Mt. Marion Firehouse cell tower
- Anyone can tune in virtually
- The WebEx meeting information can be found here
<https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/49>

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Job Openings:

- Part-time school crossing guards
- Motor Equipment Operator
- Part-time Seasonable Laborer

***Please visit the town website for further
job opening information and application
details***

<https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org>