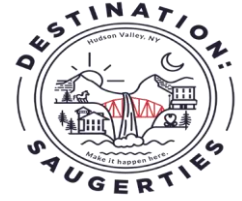




COUNCILMAN HORTON



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Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Issue No. 4, June 2nd, 2022

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:

(Original Material) 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

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attended virtually as well.

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

(Update, 4/12/22) During the previous Town Board meeting on 4/6/2022, the Town Board passed a motion to set public hearing dates regarding Local Law, adding Chapter 194, Short Term Rentals, amending Chapter 245 of the zoning code, on the following dates:

- Wednesday, 4/20/22, 6:00pm
- Wednesday, 5/18/22, 6:00pm

(Update, 4/28/2022) During the public hearing regarding Short Term Rentals, held on 4/20/2022, several members of the community spoke. Speakers represented a balanced mixture of STR owners/operators, small business owners, and concerned citizens. Key points made during the public hearing consisted of the following: clearly defining the inspection process and fines/fees associated with that process; reconsideration from the Town Board regarding a STR cap; further restrictions on non-owner occupied STRs; registration process; point of contact system/property manager availability in the event of an emergency; addressing outside big businesses buying/developing houses and large parcels for the sole purpose of STR operations.

The second public hearing regarding the proposed STR law for The Town of Saugerties will be held on Wednesday, 5/18/2022, at 6:00pm, at the Greco Senior Center. The regular scheduled Town Board meeting will immediately follow.

(Update, 6/2/2022) On Wednesday, 5/18/2022, the second public hearing regarding the proposed Saugerties STR law was held, prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting. Again, there were several citizens, both those who operate STRs and don't operate STRs alike. Overall, the topics covered, and points discussed were similar to the first public hearing (see notes above in previous update). Currently, there does not appear to be any significant changes coming regarding the proposed legislation, and the community can expect the Town Board to be moving this to a vote in the near future.

Zoning:

Prior to the scheduled Town Board meeting on April 20th, a public hearing was held regarding zoning ("amendment to industrial and business uses" Local Law enacting zoning amendments to Chapter 245). Several business owners and citizens took the time to share their concerns with these proposed zoning changes. The highlights of the public comments were stronger and more precise language/definitions; impacts of future marijuana establishes as they relate to zoning changes; increased setback distances.

There will be a second public hearing regarding zoning on Wednesday, 5/18/2022, at 5:30pm at the Greco Senior Center. The public hearing regarding STRs and the regular schedule Town Board meeting will immediately follow.

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(Update, 6/2/2022) On Wednesday, 5/18/2022, the second schedule public hearing was held regarding Zoning (see previous update above). There were not participants regarding this topic.

Harvester:

Currently, the Village of Saugerties and the Town of Saugerties work in conjunction with each other to operate the harvester. The purpose of the harvester to collect the milfoil and water chestnuts at the Saugerties Beach area, and along the Esopus Creek. This is done with goals of making the Beach area and the Esopus Creek more aesthetically pleasing, as well as safer for swimmer and kayakers. Typically, the harvester operates from the beginning of May until October.

Last year, the harvester and the employees operating the harvester, collected nearly 120 tons of milfoil from along the Creek and Saugerties Beach. Currently, it is the intent of the Village of Saugerties to begin operating the harvester by the second week of May. The plan is to have the harvester functioning 3-4 days per week, at 8 hours per day. Preliminary discussions have begun regarding acquiring a second harvester. This would ultimately allow for more effective use and strategic positioning of the harvester. Currently, the Village and Town are in search of another part time operator for the harvester. Job details include:

- Competitive part time starting pay
- Flexible hours
- Licensing and training provided

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Councilman Horton for further information.

(Update, 6/2/2022) Over the course of the last couple of weeks, a viable candidate was interviewed for the Harvester Operator position and completed “test runs” on the machine. This candidate is currently awaiting completion of his boating certificate, which should be arriving in the very near future. Once the new operator is brought fully onboard, the harvester will see increased usage in efforts to further tackle the milfoil and water chestnuts (see previous update above).

Saugerties Summer Youth Recreation Program:

Saugerties Summer Youth Recreation Program is looking for energetic, fun, and engaging people to work for the summer season. There are many positions still currently available. Available positions consist of Counselors and Activity Directors. An Activity Director’s area of responsibility could include sports, nature, and arts. Counselors work with specific age groups that range from 4-15. If you are looking for a position that allows for outdoor fun all Summer at the Cantine Veterans Sports Complex, one of these openings could be for you!

- Competitive salary
- 8:30am-3:30pm (full time)
- 8:30am-1:00pm (part time)

Applications for employment can be found at Saugerties Town Hall (4 High Street, Saugerties, NY).

Saugerties Dog Park:

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During the Town Board meeting on 4/6/22, it was brought to the attention of the residents in attendance, both in person and virtually, that the Town of Saugerties has begun preliminary discussions regarding the creation of a dog park. At this time, there appears to be a private citizen (name is being kept confidential at this time) who is interested in providing the Town of Saugerties with a significant amount of funding for this project.

At this time, there also has been a potential location designated for this project. This location will be made available once it has been confirmed. However, the Town Board is confident that this location will meet the needs of the residents who will utilize the area, as well as provide privacy and the seclusion necessary to ensure the dog park will not be a nuisance of any kind.

Other details such as fees, cleanliness, assuring pet/owner safety, etc. will be provided once those discussions are held in further depth. Please stay tuned for further information and opportunities to discuss suggestions and/or concerns at upcoming Town Board meetings.

Special Town Board Meeting Held (5/31/22):

A brief special Town Board meeting was held on Tuesday, 5/31/22 at 2:45pm at the Saugerties Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to vote on the fireworks proposal for the Saugerties Stallions Games on 6/3 and 7/29, as well as the 4th of July. The Board voted to pass these requests and permits are in the process of being obtained.

Upcoming Events & Information:

Town Board Meetings:

- Wednesday, June 15th at 7:00pm
- Agenda (TBD)

New York State Special Olympics Fundraising Event **(Update)**

- Cornhole tournament
- This event has been postponed at this time
- Tentatively rescheduled for the Fall
- If interested, continue to reach out Councilman Horton or Teresa Gilli



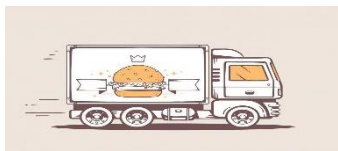
Event Contact Information

Councilman Zach Horton:
(845)750-3287 Zhorton@saugertiesny.gov

Teresa Gilli, Regional Director of Development:
(845) 262-6011, tgilli@nyso.org

Food Truck Festivals:

- Cantine Field
- July 3rd, July 21st, August 18th, September 15th



Town of Saugerties Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Meeting:

- Monday, June 6th at 7:00pm
- WebEx information and discussion topics can be found on the town website's homepage
-

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Saugerties VFW Post 5034 Father's Day Breakfast Buffet:

- All you can eat breakfast buffet
- Father's Day, June 19th 8am-11am
- American Legion Post, 30 John Street, Saugerties



Town Planning Board Meeting:

- Tuesday, June 22nd, 7:30pm
- Held in-person at the Glasco Firehouse
- Anyone wishing to participate via WebEx, contact Becky Bertorelli: bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov

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

Job Openings:

Spring/Summer Flagman

- \$17.00/hr. + overtime pay over 4 hours
- Meal allowances
- Must be 18 or over to apply

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

<https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org>

Saugerties Summer Youth Rec Program

- See above opening details in narrative*

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