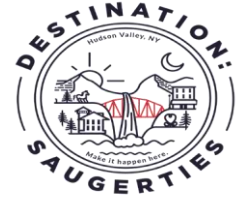




# COUNCILMAN HORTON



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## Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Issue No. 12, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

### 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.

### Winston Farm:

During the Town Board meeting held on 7/13/22, the Town Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution, as on file, pertaining to Saugerties Farms LLC for a Planned Development District (PDD), The Winston Farm Project. This approval

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included the acknowledgment of the State Environment Quality Review (SEQR) determination: Positive Declaration.

A public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Saugerties on **Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Frank. D. Greco Memorial Senior Center, 207 Market Street, Saugerties NY. This is regarding the Draft Scope for the Winston Farm Planned Development District Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement ("DGEIS").

The Town of Saugerties Town Board, as Lead Agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), has determined that the proposed zoning amendment for the Winston Farm Planned Development District may have significant adverse impact on the environment.

**(Update 10-6-2022):** During the Board Meeting held on 9-21-2022, the residents of Saugerties, as well as interested/involved parties of the Winston Farm Project, gathered at the Senior Citizen Center for the public hearing regarding the scoping document related to the proposed project. Many individuals spoke out against the project, as well as in favor of the project. Overall, most of the speakers who relayed statements of opposition were displeased with what they believe to be "vagueness and exclusion of materials" related to the scoping document. Others also made statements related to water usage and availability as it pertains to the property and the proposed project.

Since this meeting, town officials have continued to engage with the town planner and other parties to further examine the scoping document, gather input from each party, and offer individual input and remarks before advancing. This meeting, as outlined in the above update, was merely a public hearing and the Town Board, nor any other invested party, made any decisions on the project proposal itself. More updates will be provided as they become available, and the public will continue to be made aware of all public events related to this project.

**(Update 1-5-23):** During the Town Board meeting held on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the first meeting of the year, the Town Board voted to adopt the final scoping document related to the Winston Farm Project. This document is available upon request and can be found on the Town of Saugerties website. The Town Board and all involved parties, including the Conservation Advisory Commission as an interested party/agency regarding this project, will continue to openly communicate throughout the SEQR process, as well as all other phases of this project. The Town Board will also continue to work diligently to keep the public informed throughout the process, and assure that all information, documentation, and any other related materials, are readily available. Please continue to check the Town of Saugerties website and local accounts of the town's elected officials for any future updates, meeting information, and project details.

**(Update 2-8-2023):** During the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting held on 2-8-23, the Saugerties Town Board voted on and passed the motion regarding H2M Architects and Engineers. H2M will be working in conjunction with the Town of Saugerties in regard to the Winston Farm Project, and the hydrogeological evaluation process, as well as assisting with the review of the Scoping Document. Currently, the developers of Winston Farm are completing their own water testing studies. Once completed, that data will be shared with the Town of Saugerties. Saugerties will then work with H2M to determine whether or not those findings are accurate and current. In the event the determination is made that these findings are inadequate in anyway, the Town will then reassess what further studies need to be completed on behalf of the developers to gain an accurate and appropriate comprehensive understanding of the site's hydrogeological status.

**(Update 8-1-2023):** There are currently no new updates regarding the Winston Farm project proposal. The environmental studies are still being conducted and the Town of Saugerties have not been briefed on the analytics at this time. Please continue to tune into your local representatives' social media accounts the town website for new information.

#### **Upcoming Local Elections:**

This November, elections for the following offices will be taking place:

Saugerties Town Supervisor  
Saugerties Town Board (2 seats)

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Town of Saugerties Justice  
Receiver of Taxes  
Ulster County Legislator (Districts 1, 2, and 3)

If you are interested in any of these offices, please contact the Chairs of your local affiliated political party.

**(Update 3-2-23):** Local political parties have begun to screen candidates, as well endorse candidates regarding the following upcoming Saugerties and Ulster County positions:

Ulster County Executive  
Ulster County District Attorney  
County Legislators (Districts 1, 2, and 3)  
Town of Saugerties Justice  
Receiver of Taxes

**(Update 3-29-23):** Regarding the elected offices outlined above,

The Saugerties Democrat Party has endorsed the following candidates:

Fred Costello: Supervisor  
Mike Ivino: Town Board  
Leeanne Thornton: Town Board  
Jill Zarcone: Receiver of Taxes  
Aaron Levine: County Legislator, District 1  
Joe Maloney: County Legislator, District 2  
Keith Gurgui: County Legislator, District 3

**(Update 8-1-230):**

The Saugerties Conservative Party has endorsed the following candidates:

George Heidcamp Senior: Town Board  
Albert Bruno: Town Board  
Gaetana Ciarlante: Town Justice

The Saugerties Republican Party has endorsed the following candidates:

Ryan Arold: Town Board  
Albert Bruno: Town Board  
Stan O'Dell: Town Justice

### **Saugerties Dog Park:**

Site work has commenced at the Saugerties Dog Park location. Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with other Town staff, have begun grading, though it's likely that more material is needed in order to have a successfully even-graded area. Additionally, the construction and installation of the drainage pipes and fencing have begun as well. Officials for The Town of Saugerties are optimistic that this dog park location will be available for use soon.

**(Update 3-29-23):** Progress continues to be made at the future Saugerties Dog Park location. Fencing construction is underway and grading is nearly complete. The grading required more material than was originally planned. However, Parks

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and Recreation had enough material in their stockpiles to add as necessary. Additionally, there will be the removal of some small trees near the proposed parking area, as this will help to expand the handicap accessible parking spaces for this location. Sod will be put down soon, and the necessary piping will be connected to this location to assist with the treatment of the sod. Please stay tuned for additional updates as this project progresses and nears completion.

**(Update 8-1-23):** The Saugerties Dog Park is nearing completion. Officials have been balancing several seasonal projects in efforts to complete this for the public. Fencing has been completed and irrigation to the area has commenced. Please continue to review social media accounts of your local officials, this newsletter, and the town website for updates regarding this project.

#### **Saugerties Police Officer Wrong Identified in Report:**

**\*\* See Writeup on the Town of Saugerties website. \*\***

With regards to the recent media publications following the release of a recent NY State Attorney General's Report, the Saugerties Town Board proudly supports and stands behind James Louis. James Louis' picture was wrongfully used in conjunction with the release of an Attorney General's Report, and the officer named in that report is not James Louis. At this time, it has not been determined as to how or why a photo of James Louis was used by certain media outlets, but the Town of Saugerties and its officials are working diligently to gather all information and facts regarding this error.

James joined the Saugerties Police Department in 2020 and is currently serving as the Police Department Chaplain. Outside of his departmental duties, James has dedicated his professional life to the medical field, as well as to the Church. James has spent his personal and professional life serving others, and Saugerties as a community is a better and safer place for having James by our side.

#### **Town Board Meeting, 7-25-2023:**

During this Town Board Meeting, public hearings were conducted pertaining to the Town of Saugerties Receiver of Taxes position. The first public hearing reflected the potential of the position being transitioned to an appointed position, as opposed to its current elected position status. Subsequently, the second hearing was for the re-combining of duties as they relate to the Receiver of Taxes position.

#### **Special Town Board Meeting, 7-26-2023:**

There was a special Town Board meeting held in the court room at Town Hall. This occurred at approximately 11:30am on Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. During this emergency gathering, the Saugerties Town Board voted to execute an Administrative Leave regarding a Town of Saugerties employee. Subsequently, the Board addressed an outstanding grievance related to a Town of Saugerties employee, as well as voted to appoint Lou Barbaria as the interim Chief of Police for the Saugerties Police Department.

#### **Special Town Board Meeting, 7-28-2023:**

The Saugerties Town Board conducted an emergency meeting on Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10:00am. As posted, this meeting occurred at Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to address the public hearings pertaining to the Receiver of Taxes position, that were previously held on 7-25-23. This meeting was conducted in emergency meeting fashion due to an early August deadline from the Board of Elections. The Board voted to pursue the re-combining of the duties as they relate to the position, as well as to pursue making the position fillable by appointment. The Board wanted to assure that the public had an opportunity to weigh in on this matter and by having conducted this emergency Town Board meeting, it ensured that this proposition will be placed on the back of November ballot. Thus, allowing the public to vote on this matter, and not leaving it solely for the Board to decide.

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### **Upcoming Events & Information:**

#### Town Board Meetings:

- Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm (pre board beginning at 6:30pm)
- In-person at the Senior Citizen Center
- WebEx available
- Agenda (TBD)

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

- Public hearing will be held on Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, at the Senior Center
- Please contact Becky Bertorelli for additional information: [bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov)

#### Town of Saugerties Planning Board:

- A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm
- Meeting will take place at the Senior Center
- Meeting agenda consists of addressing subdivisions and campgrounds
- Please contact Becky Bertorelli for additional information: [bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov)

#### Community Action:

- Anti-poverty agency serving Ulster and Sullivan counties
- Providing a comprehensive approach to the needs of the economically disadvantaged through a variety of services
- One highlighted program; monthly farm of stand of free and healthy vegetables to the Saugerties Senior Center
- Program will begin on Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>, and will take place once per month until it concludes on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>
- For additional information, contact Outreach Program Director Suzy Hinchey: 845-338-8750

#### 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>

### **Job Openings:**

- Security Attendant (Parks and Rec)
- Applications found in Town Clerk's Office
- Applications also available online
- Kennel Assistant (Animal Shelter)
- Send resume and covert letter to Elly Monfett; [gmonfett@hvc.rr.com](mailto:gmonfett@hvc.rr.com)

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

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