



# COUNCILMAN HORTON



4 High St, Saugerties NY 12477

845-750-3287

zhorton@saugertiesny.gov

Facebook: Zach Horton,  
Councilman Zach Horton &  
ZachHorton4Saugerties

Instagram: @\_ZachHorton &  
Councilman\_Horton

Twitter: @\_ZachHorton

## Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Issue No. 14, December 7<sup>th</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.

### **Results of Local Elections:**

The results of the recent local elections are as follows:

Town Board seats (2): Michael Ivino, Leeanne Thornton  
Town Supervisor: Fred Costello

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Town Justice: Stan O'Dell

Legislators: Aaron Levine (D1), Joe Maloney (D2), Jason Kovacs (D3)

Receiver of Taxes: Diane Freidman

### **Saugerties Dog Park:**

The Saugerties Dog Park had its grand opening, and locals have been fully utilizing this park. Thanks to a generous private citizen of Saugerties, an individual who wished to remain anonymous, the costs associated with the dog park were covered in full. Over the coming months, residents can expect to see new and permanent signage, expanded parking areas, as well as some other updates to increase aesthetics and overall enjoyment for park-goers. Also, just as a friendly reminder, please be sure to clean up after your pets.

### **Pickle Ball Courts:**

Residents have been fully utilizing this space for the past several weeks. Looking ahead to Spring/early Summer of 2024, residents can expect to see the courts painted with the permanent and appropriate material. This portion of the project has been delayed, numerous times, due to material shortages, etc. As previously mentioned, the current timeline for completion is Spring/early Summer of 2024.

### **Saugerties Police Department / Police Chief:**

The Saugerties Town Board has been working diligently and relentlessly, to assure the future and the integrity of our local Police Department. Though the department has experienced turnover and a temporary executive administration change, the Town Board is confident that stability will be brought to our department very soon. Recently, the Saugerties Town Board, in conjunction with Village officials, interviewed several qualified candidates for the position of Chief. The Board will be deliberating over the coming weeks to make a final decision and in efforts to enter the new year with a new Chief of Police.

### **The Villas at Spaulding Lane / Dominican Sisters of Sparkill:**

On Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Saugerties Town Board hosted the second public hearing regarding the potential zoning change. This potential zoning change would ultimately change the designation for the Spaulding Lane neighborhood to a "high density residential." This would permit the affordable senior housing project to commence within the specifications of its current proposal. The public hearing drew a rather large crowd, consisting of many residents of that area voicing their opposition. The popular points of opposition included: increased traffic, strains on emergency services, the lack of or unknown value of property tax income, availability to Saugerties residents in need, water/sewer infrastructure and maintenance, as well as others. No decision was made on the request for a zoning change, as this meeting concluded immediately following the end of the public hearing.

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

On Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, the following firehouses will host elections for officers:

Mt. Marion: (1) Commissioner, 5-year term – voting will occur between 6:00pm-9:00pm for Mt. Marion fire district

Centerville: 1) Commissioner, 5-year term – voting will occur between 6:00pm-9:00pm for Centerville fire district

### **Proposed Vietnam War Memorial:**

The VFW is planning a Saugerties Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Cantine Field.

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They are inviting people to participate in a "Buy a Brick" fundraiser. An example of brick (which you can personalize with your own text) is shown on the right.

To design and order your brick, please go to <https://4everbricks.com/donors/post5034/>

Your text can appear with or without one of 30 selectable icons (the VFW logo is shown on the right, as an example). For all the specifics, please visit the everbricks.com site.



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

\*For a more comprehensive listing of upcoming events and meetings, please visit the Town of Saugerties website\*

#### Town Board Meetings:

- Wednesday, December 13<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 Planning Board:

- Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm
- Meeting location will be Greco Senior Center
- Agenda topics: Minor Subdivision (2-Lot) on land located at 3099 Route 9W (SBL #29.9-1-11) and owned by Barclay Dairy Bar Inc./Costello.

### **Job Openings:**

Please visit the Town of Saugerties website for information pertaining to current and future job openings

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

<https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org>

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