



# COUNCILMAN HORTON



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## Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Issue No. 15, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### 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 regarding 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 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.

#### **Swearing in Ceremony on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024:**

On New Year’s Day, local officials, along with members from the public, gathered at the Town of Saugerties Justice Court to witness the swearing in of individuals entering/retaining local offices. The following individuals sworn in by Justice Kris Craft:

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Fred Costello Jr.: Supervisor  
Leeanne Thornton: Councilmember (Deputy Town Supervisor)  
Michael Ivino: Councilmember  
Stanley O'Dell: Town Justice  
Diane Friedman: Receiver of Taxes  
Robert Nuzzo: Chief of Police

### **New Town of Saugerties Website:**

The Town of Saugerties has migrated to a new platform for the town's website. This new site is far more user-friendly, more neatly organized, and users can also navigate to their desired location/search for specific information with greater ease. Please click on the following link to explore the Town of Saugerties' newest website: [Home :: Town Of Saugerties](#)

The Town Board thanks all parties who had a role in accomplishing this much needed overhaul.

### **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.

**(Update 2-7-24):** Following the November 2023 and December 2023 Public Hearings regarding this proposed zoning change, the Saugerties Town Board has not yet reached resolution on this matter. The Board expects to officially address this request on an upcoming Town Board agenda. Please continue to check the town website and social media accounts for updates regarding this zoning change.

### **Town Board Meetings/Public Hearings:**

On Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there will be a public hearing held at 6:00pm. This meeting will take place at the Senior Center, as well as offered virtually. This public hearing is designated to address the *proposed amendments to the Town of Saugerties Zoning Law Pertaining to Events and Lodging*. Immediately following, the Town Board will convene and conduct the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, beginning at 7:00pm. Please check the town website for an official agenda.

There will be a second public hearing regarding the *proposed amendments to the Town of Saugerties Zoning Law Pertaining to Events and Lodging* on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:00pm. This hearing will also take place at the Senior Center, as well as be offered virtually. Currently, the Board does not expect to make a final decision on this matter following the public hearing.

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

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

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 community events, meetings, job openings, etc., please visit the Town of Saugerties website\* [Home :: Town Of Saugerties](#)

#### Town Board Meetings/Public Hearings:

- Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> // Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>
- Public Hearing 6:00pm, Town Board Meeting to follow at 7:00pm // 6:00pm on 2/29
- In-person at the Senior Citizen Center
- WebEx available
- Agenda (TBD)

#### Climate Smart Task Force/Conservation Advisory Commission:

- February monthly meeting Thursday, 2/15 at 5:00pm
- Meeting offered virtually
- Please visit the town website for access/agenda or ...
- Email Chairwoman Mary O'Donnell: [mhodonnell316@gmail.com](mailto:mhodonnell316@gmail.com)

#### Town of Saugerties Planning Board:

- Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm
- Meeting location will be Greco Senior Center
- Contact Chairperson Howard Post for further details: [chowardpost@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:chowardpost@saugertiesny.gov)

#### Saugerties Snow Moon Festival:

- Full moon that occurs every February
- Festival is February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>
- Visit [Home :: Town Of Saugerties](#) for more detailed information on the festival, as well as the history surrounding it

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**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\***

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