

The February 3, 2010 regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Halfmoon was called to order by Supervisor Wormuth at 7:00 pm in the A. James Bold Meeting Room at the New Town Hall, 2 Halfmoon Town Plaza with the following members present:

Melinda A. Wormuth, Supervisor
Walter F. Polak, Councilman
Regina C. Parker, Councilwoman
Paul L. Hotaling Councilman
Craig A. Hayner, Councilman
Mary J. Pearson, Town Clerk
Robert J. Chauvin, Deputy Town Attorney

The Town Board Workshop was held in the Board Room at 6:15 pm; no one had questions or comments; the Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Wormuth stated there is a special presentation tonight to recognize someone who has given so much to our Town and our community. She invited the special group of visitors who are here who are Town members, members of the State Committee and members of the State government. She introduced Carmella Mantello, Director of the NYS Canal Corporation and John DiMura and, will ask Councilman Hayner to introduce other people and invited Henrietta O'Grady to come forward. She stated Carmella is here to honor her with the Trail Tender Award. She stated they are honored that Eric Hamilton and former Councilman Jim Bold are also here and Councilman Hayner will do the official recognition and, they are so pleased to recognize her for all the work that she does.

Carmella Mantello stated she thanks Supervisor Wormuth and the Town Board and, it is tough economic times and sometimes it is tough to take a step back and thank the people who are so deserving and sometimes we take those people for granted. She stated she knows Henny on a personal level and when the nominations came swarming in for Henny O'Grady she said this is a "no brainer" so it is to a most deserving person. She stated the Canal Way Trail Tender award was established in 1998 to honor the efforts of volunteers who have demonstrated significant contributions to the development, promotion and enhancement of New York's Canal Way Trail. She stated previously recipients of the award include Barbra Spraker and Howard Holstead and she is pleased, as Supervisor Wormuth announced, that the winner of the 2009 Canal Way Trail Tender award is Henny O'Grady.

She stated Henny O'Grady has been a fixture for nearly two decades in the development of trails in Saratoga County and the Town of Halfmoon. She stated the Town of Halfmoon created the Trails Advisory committee in 2001 in large part due to Henny's trail advocacy and she was appointed to the Trails Committee that year and serviced in that position until 2009. She stated in 2002 the Town created a line item to support the planning and development work at the trails committee and that same year she joined forces with the Town of Clifton Park in preparing to join the Mohawk Towpath Trail plan and today nearly 6 miles has been constructed or under contract for these two Towns. She stated Henny's policy, advocacy and planning efforts have resulted in many Canal Way Trail accomplishments including the completion of the Trails Master Plan in 2006, purchase of the old Champlain Canal and towpath within the Town of Halfmoon, construction of nearly two miles of the Champlain Canal Trail and more than two miles of the Mohawk Towpath Trail. She stated in addition another mile of the Champlain Canal trail development is under contract and development of another mile of Mohawk Towpath Trail, which connects with the Town of Clifton Park, is under contract. She stated Henrietta has also organized the annual Canal Clean Sweep, which is now over 80 groups, and the Canal way Trail Celebration for National Trails Day Activities in the Town of Halfmoon. She stated she has recruited scores of volunteers and other groups such as Scouts to participate in these annual events. She stated she knows Henny's passion, dedication and volunteerism not only toward her professional work in life but her personal life and knows her husband, daughter and grandson and she personally congratulates a well, well, well deserving volunteer and wishes she had a thousand Henny O'Grady's throughout the Canal corridor.

Supervisor Wormuth stated they wish the same from the Town level and Councilman Hayner has some comments and suggested that Henny's grandson come up and stand beside her.

Councilman Hayner stated it is great to have so many people turn out to recognize Henny for this award and he was amazed when he looked at her resume and her advocacy for Trails dated back to 1991. He stated it is a great pleasure to speak tonight to honor one of our own here in Halfmoon. He stated Henrietta O'Grady has not only made an impact in our Town but throughout Saratoga County through her Trails advocacy efforts. He invited the rest of the family to come up and join her. He stated Henny's passion as it relates to trails in our Town dates back to 1991 when she was appointed as the Town's Halfmoon representative on the Saratoga County Heritage Trails Committee, which is still active today and is best known for its work on the development of the Saratoga County Zim Smith Trail. He stated in 2001 through the efforts of Henrietta and others the Town recognized the need to form a Trails Advisory Committee in which Henrietta was appointed as its Chair, in 2002 Henny joined forces with advocates from Clifton Park in preparing the Join Us Mohawk Towpath Trail plan. He stated today nearly six miles of historic trail along the Erie Canal is either constructed or under contract through these two Saratoga

County towns that border the Mohawk River and Henny is secretary of this group. He stated in 2003 the Town Board appointed Henny as the Cultural and Recreational subcommittee chair for the Towns Comprehensive Plan and the Plan recognized the need for more in-depth planning for trails and she chaired the Trails Master Plan Committee. He stated in 2006 the Town Board adopted the Trails Master Plan, which was a direct product of the committees work.

He stated they would like to convey their thanks for all of her service and dedication to trails here in our hometown. He stated many people have come with the awareness that trails provide a safe off route opportunity for us all and a healthy lifestyle we can all enjoy. He congratulated Henny and stated this award is richly deserved.

He stated there are many people present who share in the thankfulness of Henny's. He asked the individuals to please stand up: Theresa LaSalle, Capital District Transportation Committee; Marcia Kees, New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation; Carmella Mantello; John DiMura, Trails Director; NYS Fran Gotcsik, Eric Hamilton, Mohawk By-Way; Julie Stokes, Saratoga Plan; Jason Kemper, Director of Planning; also, members, Matt Shea, Trails Committee member and, Jim Bold has been a big advocate for Trails and thanked Jim for being here tonight.

Supervisor Wormuth stated integrated in everything we do in Halfmoon as we have a tendency not to separate things into too many segments, Ellen Kennedy has worked tirelessly with Henrietta not only on developing trails but what the history of our trails mean. She stated we would not be where we are without them. She invited Ellen, Jim and Matt to come forward to join them. She stated this has been in progress for a long time none of this was done overnight and as Henny would say it is not done by one person and she has been here for a long time and has dealt with many of them and her effort and intuition and ambition is certainly a shining star of our community and our community would not be where it is at without her and her efforts and willingness to put forth and give of herself for the sake of her community. She stated tonight is about recognizing that and they don't expect this to be the end of anything but a celebration that will boost her into continuing to do the wonderful work that she has and will always have an appreciation for what she has done and will always have an anticipation for what she will do. Councilman Hayner stated the next Trails Committee meeting will be the 25th of February. Supervisor Wormuth stated they promise a bigger party next time.

She stated this is a very honorable moment and they were so proud to be able to nominate Henny for this award and it is not something that's taken lightly and is not a Halfmoon award and is an award from the State and is way bigger than we are ever going to be and she stated that Henny got us way bigger than we were ever going to be with all the hard work that she did so we are above and beyond proud of that. She stated she has to give special thanks to Nelson Ronsvale who is not here tonight and Kim and Lisa because they put a lot of work into this because they truly recognize how important all the gifts that Henny has given our community and they are gifts that will be here for a lifetime. She stated for that they are very, very proud.

The Supervisor invited Henny's grandson up to allow him to make his comments and then Carmella will present the official award and also she has a letter from former Supervisor Ken DeCerce who could not be here.

Henny stated she would like to recognize Raj Malhotra from New York State DOT.

Supervisor Wormuth stated she apologizes for not inviting him to come forward and certainly the support that we receive from the State and different organizations are what make us able to move forward.

Henny's grandson, Andrew Parent, stated "I am really happy for my grandmother for winning this award."

Carmella Mantello stated to give a perspective of the statewide trail so many times the trail is thought of as a quality of life improvement, recreational aspect to communities throughout New York State. She stated the Canal Way trail they did an economic impact study and is more than just a recreational boost and quality of life boost and is an economic boost and a tourism boost. She stated right now the Canal Way trail after 15 years of hard work from many, many trails grounds across the State from Buffalo to Albany is 80% complete and, when completed this trail will be the longest multi use trail in the Nation. She stated as the Supervisor and Craig mentioned we can't make light of that and this is a National tourist destination. She stated it is because of people like Henny O'Grady. She stated we need to keep in mind that yes trails are great and people think of them as fuzzy warm nice things in our neighborhood but they are so much more than that.

She stated she wanted to officially thank Henny O'Grady and this is huge for the Town of Halfmoon and part of the National Tourist destinations because of the Henny O'Grady's throughout the world.

Henny O'Grady stated thanks for the recognition and the recognition is absolutely wonderful and she is speechless and she is really surprised and now it all adds up seeing all the people and her family come in and they did a very good job planning all this; the Supervisor stated not her but her staff. She thanked the people who came tonight so much, Marcia, Fran and Jim was so supportive of all their efforts and Ellen was there from the beginning and they worked very hard developing trails and many communities were doing it and they felt it should happen in Halfmoon and it has. She stated she thanks them for their cooperation and the foresight is wonderful to see something grow and develop through the

years and something that will be left for future generations. She thanked everybody who came tonight, she is impressed and will do her best to help and do what she can in the future.

Supervisor Wormuth stated this is not the end and this is the beginning of what they will do next and thoroughly expect that she will continue to help guide our on the right trail and the trail for the future. She stated they would present her with a copy of the nomination that was submitted and said lots of wonderful things and the letter from Supervisor DeCerce. She stated they do have refreshments after the rest of the business meeting to celebrate all of her accomplishments and on behalf of the Town Board they can't thank her enough for all her dedication and hard work and what she has given to our community.

Mr. Malhotra stated, on behalf of the State, he has had the privilege of coordinating activities from the region including safe routes for the schools, trails, scenic by-ways and bike paths and in the past six years she was one person who tested him quite often and he took pleasure in that because she is so dedicated. He stated when she wanted something from the State he would make extra time to research those things so she gets the correct answer whether they can help or not. He stated wherever he goes he finds Henny there all the time and is a credit to her.

REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND TOWN ATTORNEY

Councilman Polak offered Henrietta his personal and sincere appreciation for all she has done and outside of Jim Bold there is not too many her who can say they worked four decades with Henny O'Grady. He stated some forty years ago he was part of the Water Advisory board and committee to get water to the Town and she was an advocate of all their planning, zoning and master plan to make it better for the community. He stated she only did the trails when she had nothing else to do and she is certainly an asset to this community and hopes she keeps up the good work and she has made this community what it is today and put it on a lot of maps and now she has gone National and to her his sincere thanks and to her husband and family and he appreciates everything she has done over the past four decades and thanks her.

Councilman Hotaling stated he wants to say thank you to Henrietta and when people ask you where you live and he tells them Halfmoon they say it's a great place and its because of people like her and said thank you.

Councilwoman Parker stated she also extends congratulations to her and her family for all her hard work. She stated she has lived here 35 five years and met her early on and knows how much she put of herself and they appreciate and thank her.

Councilman Hayner stated the next Trails Advisory meeting will be Thursday, February 25th.

Deputy Town Attorney Robert Chauvin congratulated Henrietta.

Supervisor Wormuth reported that at a previous meeting the Board approved four employees to attend the Association of Towns meeting and based on some information on how they could be paid for she would like the Board to consider amending that resolution to include five employees.

RESOLUTION NO. 34

Offered by Councilman Hotaling, seconded by Councilman Hayner: Approved by vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board amends Resolution No. 15-2010 authorizing and permitting up to four (4) Town employees to attend the Association of Towns 2010 Training School and Annual Meeting in New York City on February 14th to on or about February 17th, 2010 including the cost of lodging and any fees associated with attending the seminars, amending to state up to five (5) Town employees.

The Supervisor opened the Public Information Meeting for the Open Space Plan with Mike Bianchino from Clough Harbour who will present an overview of our Open Space Plan with the hope that the Board will be able to set a public hearing.

Mr. Bianchino stated he also congratulates Henny.

He stated the Open Space committee worked very diligently under the direction and supervision of Supervisor Wormuth and then Councilman Hayner. He stated the Open Space Conservation Plan was a direct result of the Comprehensive Plan that the Town Board adopted back in October 2003. He stated Open Space was an important action item in the Comprehensive Plan and led to the creation of the Open Space committee. He stated the value of an Open Space plan as the Town has seen with the Town Trails Master plan and with the Waterfront Visioning plan it gives Nelson Ronsvalle the Towns grant administrator a great basis for developing grant applications and tying to get additional monies that Town can utilize some of these plans. He stated they have seen many success stories with those grants and this provides another step to go after grants. He stated the Open Space committee began in 2005 and open meetings were held and 2005 they had a bus trip of various areas of the Town looking at opportunities

and important views. He stated they held public workshops in March and April of 2007 and the first draft of the plan was developed by the committee in June 2007. He stated in 2008 several new committee members were chosen and a new chairman was selected, Councilman Hayner. He stated that led to working on the final draft, which went through in 2009 and completed and submitted to the Board in January 2010. He stated the goals outlined in the plan include conservation of existing agricultural operations where possible, conserving and enhancing the ecological health of the community, conserving important views and view sheds, providing recreational spaces and opportunities for passive uses as well as active. He stated also identifying opportunities to link trails and complete trail systems and enhance trails through permanent protection of open space; conserve rural and agricultural heritage in the Town and through those goals they started a planning process which included identifying natural resource areas, inventorying existing open space, looking at land use and development patterns; identifying important environmental areas for potential conservation in the future; reviewing existing resources and existing open space and tools for recommending additional tools for use by the various departments. He stated to identify open space they creating inventory mapping and broke down into quadrants and identified importation areas; active and inactive farmland; key waterfront locations; wood lots, steep slopes; greenways; identified potential open space or lands that had some opportunities for future recreational use. He stated they also identified some protection strategies and some are currently used in planning process including PDD legislations; overlay districts; some zoning including some enhancements; existing planning documents including the Northern Halfmoon GEIS; Trials Master Plan and the Waterfront Visioning Plan; utilized the subdivision process as a means of identifying and protecting some open space. He stated some new tools the committee identified included land trusts, Saratoga Plan; easements and acquisitions of properties; additional incentives to allow people who would like to maintain their property as open space but can't afford it and identifying some potential incentives similar to what was done with the Reilly farm in the northern end of Town property. Also they identified some funding sources working closely with Nelson the Towns Grant Administrator. He stated many of these are just tools they identified as things that could be done and the basic plan is a guideline to provide the Town with tools and opportunities. He stated the document has been submitted to the Town Board for consideration and the Town Board needs to complete the SEQRA process and need to schedule a public hearing.

Supervisor Wormuth opened the informational meeting to the public for questions and asked for a procedural standpoint if there are any other involved agencies or are they looking for the Town Board to take lead agency status.

Mr. Bianchino stated there are no other involved agencies and they do not have to do a lead agency status and the Town is the only agent.

There being no comments from the public the Supervisor closed the Public Informational meeting.

Councilman Hayner stated he wanted to give a special thank you to Mike and Chris from Clough for their efforts putting together this plan and the presentation tonight. He stated it is also important to send thanks to all the Halfmoon residents who gave their input going back to the first public workshops. He stated a little over a year ago they embarked on a plan to finish the work that was started and reconvene the committee. He stated it is the same one currently serving today and would like to public ally thank them for their volunteer service to the Town. He stated the committee was made up by the following: Michele Tompkins, Ray Beaudoin, Heather Fischer, Kathy Sucocki, Chris Abele, Jim Bold, Halfmoon Town employees, Lindsay Zepko, Nelson Ronsvalle and Kim Martin. He stated the experience and back ground is nothing less than top notch and, at times, this subject matter can be an emotional one and at times there was some spirited debate during their meetings but what he is most proud of is the way everyone worked together and respectful to one another's opinion. He stated the best way to describe this document it would be balance and, in his opinion, this document represents adm respects the fundamental rights of land ownership which date back to the founding of our nation and take snot of our natural resources, celebrates the many accomplishments this Town has made to date to improve the quality of life for our residents.

RESOLUTION NO. 35

Offered by Councilman Hayner, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board schedules a public hearing for the proposed Natural Resource and Open Space Conservation Plan for March 3, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

Supervisor Wormuth opened public privilege for discussion of agenda topics; no one had questions or comments.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS- month of January

1.	Town Justice Wormuth		
Total cases – 355		Total fees remitted to the Supervisor	-\$41,590
Filed.			
2.	Town Justice Tollisen		
Total cases – 220		Total fees remitted to the Supervisor	-\$25,550
Filed.			
3.	Senior Express Dispatch		
Total # of Riders	-227	Total # of Meals delivered – 347	
Filed.			
4.	Building		
Total permits -	28	Total fees remitted to the Supervisor	- \$6,811.93
Filed.			
5.	Fire Code		
Total permits – 11		Total fees remitted to the Supervisor	-\$462.00
Filed.			

NEW BUSINESS
RESOLUTION NO. 36

Offered by Councilwoman Parker, seconded by Councilman Polak: Approved by vote of the Board:
Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves and orders paid all vouchers for all funds listed on Abstract dated February 3, 2010, totaling: \$1,296,267.81.

RESOLUTION NO. 37

Offered by Councilman Polak, seconded by Councilwoman Parker: Approved by vote of the Board:
Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves minutes of Town Board meetings of December 15th, 2009 and January 6th, 2010 as presented by the Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION NO. 38

Offered by Councilman Hayner, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by vote of the Board:
Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the Supervisor’s report for the month of December 2009 as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 39

Offered by Councilman Hotaling, seconded by Councilwoman Parker: Approved by vote of the Board:
Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Halfmoon shall authorize the Town Supervisor, Mindy Wormuth to execute an easement to New York State Electric and Gas Corporation for the purpose of installing streetlights and secondary wire and poles at the intersection of NY Route 146 and Fellows Road.

RESOLUTION NO. 40

Offered by Councilman Polak, seconded by Councilman Hotaling: Approved by vote of the Board: Ayes: Wormuth, Polak, Parker, Hotaling, Hayner

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to make the following Transfer between Appropriations:

Transfers between Appropriations for Year 2009:

From Account	To Account	Amount	Reason
10-5-1990.40	10-5-1320.40	\$500	Transfer of appropriations needed to

Contingency	Accounting & Auditing		cover fees to Final bill from Auditors for 2008 audit
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Transfers between Appropriations:

From Account	To Account	Amount	Reason
30-5-1990.40 Contingency	30-5-8310.42 Administration Contractual Legal Fees	\$10,000	Transfer of appropriations needed to cover legal fees for water department

The Supervisor opened public privilege for discussion of non-agenda items.

James Bold, 105 Harris Road, thanked the Town Board for their efforts relating to the traffic signal at the end of Harris Road with the intersection of Guideboard Road. He stated it is a long time that light was needed and there has been personal injuries and fatalities and a lot of property damage. He stated through the efforts of this Town Board they managed to get a signal at the intersection of two County roads and he thanks them.

Supervisor Wormuth stated this was started by everybody before her with much hard work and she is very happy also.

On motion by Councilman Polak, seconded by Councilman Hayner the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Pearson
Town Clerk

