

ROCHESTER REPORTER

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Meetings Schedule

July 10, 7 p.m. ZBA, Town Hall

July 14, 9 a.m. Public Info. Mtg., draft zoning map and codes, Accord Fire House

July 16, 4 p.m. Historic Preservation Comm.

July 16, 7 p.m. Public Info. Mtg., draft zoning map and codes, Fire Hs. #2, Samsonville Rd.

July 17, 7 p.m. Planning Board, Town Hall.

July 18, 9:30 a.m.

Youth Comm. Board

July 23, 6 p.m., Code Task Force

July 25, 4:30 p.m., Town Audit Mtg.

July 30, 6 p.m., Code Task Force

July 31, Small Claims Tax Assessment Review (SCAR) deadline

August 2, 7 p.m., Town Board Mtg.

Byway Update Presented to the Board

Roughly a decade ago, landscape consultant Al Wegener was riding his bike along 44/55 near his hometown of New Paltz and skidded, suddenly aware that the roadway had no shoulder. That simple realization spurred him to become the driving force behind what is now the Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway, a network of nearly 100 miles of roadway in Ulster and Orange counties. With economic development and open space preservation forces working hand-in-hand, the governments of 11 towns along the Byway will benefit by highlighting their greatest assets -- farmland, recreation, historic sites and tourism. Wegener, who now is Executive Director of the Shawangunk



Mountain Regional Partnership, appeared at the July 5 Town Board meeting to discuss the project's progress.

After the initial designation by the state, a stretch of road was added from Ireland Corners to alleviate traffic in New Paltz, and incidentally, lengthening the byway from the planned 84 to 93 miles.

"So where are the signs?" Wegener said he's been repeatedly asked by Councilman Francis Gray. "They're on the way," he prom-

ised, noting that "an incredible amount" of mapping has been done, showing all of the area's resources. (A full-color map will soon be on the Town website.) The state's official designation makes the program eligible for federal funds through the Federal Highway Administration. Funding has been applied for to promote the byway, set up a website, and establish a program to teach local planning boards how they can protect scenic views.

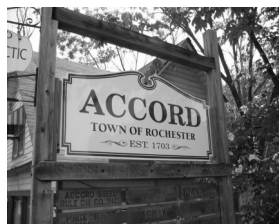
In response to a question on whether the state or federal government could affect what an individual along the byway does with his or her land, Wegener quickly noted that the authority for land use continues to rest entirely with local towns. "What the scenic byway might do," he said, is to bring resources to the town that might help it preserve its resources."

New, Bright, and In Plain Sight

The businesses behind some of the faded names at the bottom of the frame holding the new "Accord" sign (intersection of Main

Street and 209) have faded into town history: *Agway*, *White House Apartments*, and *Accord Steel Rule Die Co.* But doesn't the eye-catching new marker signify there are bright and shiny days ahead for the town itself?

And permission has been obtained to mount a new Kerhonkson sign! Keep your eyes open!



First Free Concert Draws Large Crowd

Rebecca Coupe Franks, an artist and musician who moved from California to Accord two years ago, told the audience at the July 5 Town Board meeting that she missed "a sense of community" in her new surroundings. To bring people together, she got support from the town and nearly two dozen local businesses to stage what looks like it's going to be an annual series of twilight concerts in the Town Park.



Enjoying sun and sounds

The music goes on, rain or shine, from 6-8 p.m. Admission is free. And, as Supervisor Duke noted, some folks brought picnics to enjoy while the kids played in the park. "It's a great evening, but bring bug repellent," she advised.

Importantly, said a harried Coupe Franks, some additional help is needed from willing volunteers to make the effort a real community affair. You don't have to be a musician, but it would be greatly appreciated if more folks pitched in to help with the stage, clean up afterwards, and give out the free raffle tickets for valuable prizes donated by local merchants.



Dave rocks the crowd

If you weren't among the 75-100 adults and kids that turned out for the great rockin' sound of Dave Emmich and his band on July 7, better mark your calendar to catch the two concerts coming up — on

Zoning Code Presentations July 14, 16! Public Hearing to Follow on Aug. 13

Noting that the Town's Code Task Force has been meeting three weeks out of every four for several months, Chairman Mike Baden expects big turn-outs at two two-hour "public information" meetings on the newly drafted Zoning Code set for Saturday, July 14 (9 a.m., at the Accord Fire House) and Monday, July 16 (7 p.m., Samsonville Fire House).

At each, consultant Tom Shepstone will offer a Power Point presentation covering the high points and significant changes to the Code and Zoning Map.

"We'll try to hold the meetings to 2-1/2 hrs., but will save plenty of time for questions," said Baden.

A Public Hearing on the proposed new zoning map and law will be held on Monday, August 13 at 7 p.m. at the Accord Fire House. Both the new Code and a new high-resolution map are going on the town website and a copy can be read at Town Hall.

The document runs to 97 printed pages, so paper copies are too costly to make available to the public.

School, the Way Things Used to Be

After a cleanup by a group of concerned citizens — including town historian Alice Schoonmaker and Gary Miller — the historic Palentown Schoolhouse is now open as a museum. Rochester-ites and guests can check out the old-fashioned desks, blackboards, and other artifacts from the past on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, July through October. Group and school tours are available by appointment (Call 626-4281 or 626-7628 for information.)



At the July 5 Town Board meeting, a report noted that some work still needs to be done: The Highway Superintendent is working on parking, a tree needs to be felled, and an expert was to be called in to remove some "unwanted pests" from an attic area. Volunteer workers are always welcomed, says Miller, who can be reached at 626-4281.

To reach the Museum, take Samsonville Road (Rt. 3) from Route 209 to Palentown Road; turn left and the Schoolhouse will be on your right in about 1 mile.

July 9 Town Board Meeting Highlights

■ With unanimous Board approval for a lease of Town property, Homeland Towers is now expected to submit its application to erect two cell towers to the Planning Board in August 2007, according to Councilman Gray.

■ The Town resolved to seek bids to remove underground oil storage tanks at the Transfer Station and Town Hall, and have new above-ground tanks installed to meet environmental regulations.

■ After receiving three resumes and interviewing two applicants for the position of Tax Assessor, a vote was taken to appoint **Daniel Baker** to the six-year term, as of October 1.

■ A "Code of Conduct," approved last year by Town staff, was voted into the employees' handbook.

■ The Environmental Conservation Commission is seeking new volunteer members. EEC's role is to alert and educate the community on environmental issues. Members are appointed by the Town Board and meet monthly in public session. Interested parties should send a letter of interest to the Supervisor. More information is available on the Town website.

■ **Help Wanted:** The Town is seeking resumes for the position of Tax Assessor Aide. Resumes must be sent to Supervisor, P.O. Box 65, Accord, NY 12404, no later than 7/18/07. Interviews will be held 7/25/07.

■ **Help Wanted:** The Town is seeking a part-time Transfer Station employee to be hired on a per diem basis at a rate of \$8.50 per hour. Call 626-3043 if interested.