

**MINUTES BOOK\*\*TOWN OF COEYMANS  
February 11, 2021 – Town Board Meeting – 6:00pm**

**A Public Hearing was held Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York**

**PRESENT:** George D. McHugh, Supervisor  
Daniel D. Baker, Council member  
Linda S. Bruno, Council member  
Zachary S. Collins, Council member  
Brandon L. LeFevre, Council member

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk  
Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering

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Supervisor McHugh opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that a full Board was present. This meeting was held concurrently with a public hearing on the Proposed Local Law – Zoning Moratorium.

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**NOTICE  
TOWN OF COEYMANS  
TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

In compliance with Town Law §272-a, this will inform you that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans has continued the Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on the draft of the Comprehensive Plan Update. The Public Hearing will be held at 6:00pm on February 11, 2021 at Coeymans Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York. The draft of the Comprehensive Plan can be found on the Town website.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.1 the public may view and listen to the proceedings live, via the Town of Coeymans Facebook page and Mid-Hudson Cable Channel 901. Due to the increasing COVID-19 numbers in the area, Town Hall will be closed to the public. All interested persons are welcome to call 518-756-6006, Ext. 3 at the above date and time and they will be heard. You can also submit your comments on this matter beforehand by submitting a letter, email or telephone call to the Town Clerk's Office at [townclerk@coeymans.org](mailto:townclerk@coeymans.org) or 518-756-6006, Ext. 3 until 4:00pm the date of the meeting.

**By Order of the Town Board  
of the Town of Coeymans  
Cindy L. Rowzee  
Town Clerk**

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Supervisor McHugh stated that this is a continuation of the public hearing on the draft update of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Carol Waterman of Albany** called and stated that Coeymans is a beautiful place to live. She stated that she is against Lafarge burning tires adjacent to two schools and the soccer field. She also stated that Coeymans is on its way to becoming the garbage capital of NY state. In the appendix of the comprehensive plan it states that 98% more people want more outdoor recreation

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and 96% of people wanted to protect natural areas. She stated that the people do not want industrialization. She stated that Lafarge and Carver would benefit to the tune of millions of dollars while the children and population of Coeymans will suffer. She spoke of the rise in comorbidities and how they increase the likelihood of dying from COVID.

**Sara Pruiksmá of Coeymans** called in and wanted to make residents aware that DEC was found to have lied about permitting Norlite to burn firefighting foam without notifying local officials. She felt it was important for residents to know this since DEC is in charge of the regulations here as well. She then stated that the comprehensive plan does not reflect the wants of Coeymans residents and that it has sourced their input from industry and business owners.

Ms. Hakes stated that there was certainly an economic and growth focus group but that there were also ones related to history and culture, recreation, and agriculture. The idea was to identify a series of topic areas and to have people come and share their input. Ms. Hakes answered a question from Council member Collins and stated that they took all of the stakeholder's and surveys into account equally.

Ms. Pruiksmá went on to state that she needs more than three minutes of their time and has tons of ideas for the comprehensive plan. She would like to meet face to face as she has ideas and questions. She recommended that they could even hold Zoom meetings. In response to Supervisor McHugh stating that she could write an e-mail or a letter she stated that was not public discussion. She stated that things need to be discussed in a public manner for an open sharing of ideas. She also asked the Board to release the list of stakeholders.

**Christine Primomo of Coeymans** called in and stated that a comprehensive plan should include robust participation from the community in order to be effective. She stated that there was minimal outreach and participation from the community. She recommended more community outreach through mailings and zoom meetings. She also stated that there should be more of an effort to educate the community on what a comp plan is and what it does. She stated that no one wants to see more industrial development in the Town and there is a lot of concern about the expansion that has happened since 2006. She feels that this has to have more attention and stated that the consultants should have provided online zoom meetings and multiple public meetings.

**Ted Smith of South Bethlehem** called in and stated that he has been connected to Coeymans for 15 years as a teacher at RCS. He stated that he lives just over the line but shops and uses recreation in the Town and has ties to the community. He spoke of the proposed restricted exit for the Thruway into the industrial park and recommended trying for one for public use to encourage economic growth. He stated that he was concerned about the changes to the zoning rules and concerned that it opened the town to a potential incineration project. He asked the town board to promise to say no to an incineration project if it did materialize. He also stated his concerns with tire burning at Lafarge directly across from the school. He then urged Lafarge to listen to public opinion.

**Joe of Coeymans** called to commend the board with the job they have done with the update of the comprehensive plan and asked why it has not been done since 2006.

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The Town Board did not know and asked Ms. Hakes how often it should be updated. Ms. Hakes stated that a review should be done every 5 years and a complete update every 10 years.

Joe then stated that the Town Board had done a nice job with cleaning up the RK property. He asked if the Town could work on a referendum on the next ballot for a consolidation of services and municipalities in order to save money and lower taxes. He asked if it could include a proposal to make the Town Supervisor a 4 year position from a 2 year position as 2 years was not enough time to get anything done.

**Jackie Kalney of Coeymans** called in and echoed Sara Pruiksma's opinion that 3 minutes was not enough time to get to the heart of anything. She hoped that they could have a zoom call or a way to answer more questions face to face. She stated that she has not been able to complete reading the update. She stated that it would be helpful if they could answer everyone's questions as most callers had been cut off. She stated that the residents need to hear each other questions and answers and have discussion.

**Mike Robbins of Ravena** called and thanked the Board members for their service. He stated that he likes the direction we are going in and feels it is proactive for this community. He stated that this is taking some of the liability off the Town. We already pay taxes to the State, he would like to see us start using our tax money better. He stated that looking at the median income here, we are not Delmar or a higher median area. He stated that he really appreciates the time they are investing in this.

**Jim** called and stated that the Town Board is doing great. He stated that they have updated the plan, cleaned up the RK's property, doubled the public safety at no cost to the taxpayer by adding the sheriff substation and held the line on taxes with a 9% decrease while increasing the revenue by joining the village and town courts. He stated that they are making good on their promises and everything that they have talked about during their campaign and asked them to keep up the good work.

**Brian Kingman of Coeymans** called and spoke about how the Town Board had helped to get Mid-Hudson cable and internet on Gedney Hill. He stated how important this has been during the pandemic. He stated that they are doing a wonderful job and there is a sense of community and forward thinking and thanked the Town Board for all they have done for them.

Town Clerk Rowzee stated that she had received only one comment by e-mail and that was by Ted Smith. It contained the same things he mentioned in this public hearing.

Supervisor McHugh stated that he feels the public hearing should be kept open.

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**Motion to Adjourn**

On motion of Supervisor McHugh, seconded by Council member Bruno, the Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan update was adjourned to February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and the Town Clerk was

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authorized to publish the notice.

APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 5 – NAYS 0 – ABSENT – SO MOVED

Time – 6:37pm

*Respectfully Submitted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Rowzee', written over a horizontal line.

*Cindy L. Rowzee, Town Clerk*