

**PUBLIC HEARING
"PROPOSED LOCAL LAW ON MASS GATHERINGS"
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
MARCH 21, 2016**

The Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by **Lawrence Eckhardt** at **7:03 PM** at the Town Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

(X) Supervisor Lawrence Eckhardt **(X) High. Superin. Alden Goodermote**
(X) Councilman Chris Demick **(X) Clerk to the Assessor Jennifer VanDeusen**
(X) Councilman William Jennings
(X) Councilman Philip Roder
(X) Councilman Gerald Robinson
(X) Town Clerk Stephanie Wagar

A quorum (X) was () wasn't established.

22 from the Public were present

- *2nd Public Hearing to discuss the Proposed Local Law for Mass Gatherings*

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

L. Eckhardt: briefly explains what the meeting is for – this is another public hearing to get public comment on a Proposed Local Law for Mass Gatherings, last meeting it was discussed about a “Quiet Times Local Law”, we are back to the drawing board and looking for more comments, we ask that you keep your comments to a minimum of 5 minutes to allow everyone a chance to speak. We will open this meeting to public comment.

P. Flint: last meeting you were asked to introduce yourselves, maybe you can purchase name plates.

L. Eckhardt: good suggestion.

S. Wagar: I can order name plates for the Board.

P. Dibble: the board should put something in place for a quiet time not just for these events but for everyone and me personally, it needs to be a happy medium has to be equal across the board.

R. Davis: are you still considering going with a Mass Gathering Law?

J. Atwater: has to be access the entire Town not just when events are held, all should have the advantage of having a quiet time.

L. Eckhardt: propose no limit of people

J. Atwater: if you are looking for money or a permit process no problem with that but it needs to be the same across the board.

D. Cyris: mention of it being across the board but how are you going to enforce something like that?

B. Jennings: currently and in the past residence, big events or anyone making a noise the law enforcement can't do anything since the Town has nothing in place. If there is 5,000 or more people than the State

steps in, but because we have nothing in place anything under 5,000 people nothing can be enforced at this time.

R. Davis: so if the police are called they can't do anything or respond?

B. Jennings: they will respond and talk to people but won't enforce or do anything since there is nothing in place.

R. Davis: are you allowed to fine tune it to make a permit process?

B. Jennings: we are working with the lawyer in regards to a permit process.

J. Atwater: with a permit process you are going to have people who have graduation parties who will have to apply for the permit with the limit you have set here, the complaints are the lateness and the loudness, so focus on that.

N. Gardner: every time the Code Enforcement comes they charge \$175/tent, I make each event donate \$500 to the Fire Department, they have boot drives, there has only been 2 calls in the last seven years.

L. Eckhardt: what about having something in the contract to say this is the cut off time?

N. Gardner: they would have to abide by it or I have to pull the plug.

L. Eckhardt: who is responsible for it then? We have received a couple of things from people M. Osgood sent us some of her suggestions, as we as the Fractal Tribe on Noise Management. I will have them speak on their part.

R. Lambra: (with Fractal Tribe): we have complied information globally, we have safety already in place, we hire someone to manage the noise they have authority over anyone at the event to shut things down, we have put together a plan to help with on sit and off site noise, we will have someone addressing any complaints.

G. Robinson: if there is a quiet time does it affect your event?

B. Jennings: we agreed there needs to be a quiet time.

Tony (with Disc Jam): so are you saying completely quiet or tune it down? Because he's (referring to Fractal Tribe) saying tuning it down.

B. Jennings: there needs to be complete quiet for a period of time for the people who live here to get some sleep.

N. Gardner: you can go anywhere in Town and hear it, the Town is a funnel.

L. Eckhardt: the Fractal Tribe did a far better job keeping the noise level down than Disc. Jam did.

Tony (with Disc Jam): Disc Jam is a different type of event than Fractal Tribe, we don't need to have music playing 24 hours nonstop, we would like to work with the Town.

J. Atwater: put a high hefty fine so if they violate what is put in place they will have to pay.

W. Means: (presents the Board with a proposed addition) amplified music is definitely an issue, how is this going to be enforced? Section 8 of Draft 3 – the proposed addition would be “Any violation of the Quiet

Times shall result in the immediate revocation of the permit, for the remaining day or days of the gathering. Notice of such revocation shall be served, by the Town Constable, as soon as practical after the violation, upon any member of the Gathering organization, or if necessary upon the landowner. In the event the Town Constable is not available, his or her special deputy for this, shall effect service."

D. Cyris: Is "Quiet Time" turning down or turning off? People will be listening and walking around saying "Can I hear it? Can I hear it?" People will look for something to complain about.

P. Roder: Draft 3 from the last meeting has pretty much been thrown out. Events don't bother me personally, participates in a lot of racing events that make noise the problem here is the amplified noise and giving the residents who live here some peace of mind, if it's not amplified and it's not heard throughout the Town there is no problem.

D. Cyris: so you are saying they can still play music just not amplified music?

P. Roder: we can't tell 600 plus people to go to bed.

B. Jennings: the people who live here deserve a time when there is peace and quiet.

R. Davis: both groups seem to want to work with you to come up with a solution. They are saying they are willing to work with you.

G. Robinson: trying to understand and find out the sense of "quiet time." What is "Quiet Time"? With 5,000 people don't believe you will find complete "quiet time".

B. Hammersmith: you pull a permit on one of these events and you're going to have a lot of pissed off people running around town, at least with the event still going everyone is contained in one place. You stop the event you're going to have a bunch of people around Town trying to find something to do.

P. Flint: do you have to have a law or could you have a written agreement?

L. Eckhardt: struggling with this, we have tried a hand-shake agreement for years and it doesn't work, we will continue to work on this to come up with something.

N. Gardner: they pay \$1,500 - \$3,000 in insurance, these people are not getting rich from these events. They are not just hippies we have doctors there, we are trying to bring business to this town. One weekend Cumby's makes \$30-40k if not more from these events.

Attached are the documents of suggestions that were received by the Town Board during the meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 7:47 PM

MOTION BY: Roder

SECONDED BY: DEMICK

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

****A Workshop Meeting** is held every second Monday of every month at **7:00PM** at the Town Hall.

****The next Regular Meeting** of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on **Monday, March 21st, 2016** directly after the Public Hearing, at the Town Hall.

Stephanie M. Wagar
Town Clerk