

**Minutes**  
**March 16, 2021 DIGITAL MEETING 6:30pm**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DIGITAL PLEDGE TO FLAG- Stated by each Town Board Member
2. ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT	ZOOM
Supervisor John C. Reilly			x
Council-member Nichole Martini			x
Council-member Pat Odell			x
Council-member Michael Moran			x
Council-member John Fraser Paterson			x

**MONTHLY THOUGHTS:**

**March is the month God created to show people who don't drink what a hangover is like - Garrison Keillor.**

**March is the month of expectation, the things we do not know, the persons of prognostication are coming now - Emily Dickinson.**

**NEW BUSINESS SECTION 2021**

1. Update on **FCID area at 461 Silvernails Road**, tax parcel 218.-1-1.111 in the Town of Gallatin. The Town has engaged an attorney and engineer to review the project. Escrow account of \$4,000 has been funded.
2. Solstice Update and extended sign-up opportunity-Currently there are 74 meters signed up with Solstice.
3. **Councilmember and Clerk 2021 Projects:**
  1. Fraser/Michael/Lisa: Update on Gallatin Conservation Area progress and grants

Gallatin Conservation Area In relative order of operations:

1. Define trail segments and temporarily mark—with intention to begin blazing trails in specified order with volunteers when weather permits • Define trail priorities in segments—easiest to access first... imagine path hugging the outer perimeter of the property and availing itself of the railroad bed, river side and without unduly traversing The Cap • Call to volunteers when ready • Downed trees & underbrush to clear; trash clean up; construct wooden walkways over wet areas (hopefully use salvaged, downed wood from on site); lay chips (in consultation with Jack) • Private Property barriers • Final signage/trail markers when ready
2. Be in touch with neighboring property owners and residents, making them aware of our plans and asking for input/collaboration
3. Discuss parking—recommend to clean up existing parking area (which could be used for residents who need increased access, i.e., handicap) and add parking across street, prioritizing short and long term flexibility, cost effectiveness, accessibility • Ballpark cost from Jack?
4. Move Bees! Confirm apiary new location given potential trail paths.
5. Discuss sampling/testing of "rusty water" area.
6. Confirm signage content/size/location/cost • Note: \$500 Columbia Land Conservancy grant received • Grant application completed January 16, 2021: \$1,000 Bank of Greene County (Pending)
7. Keep apprised of trout stocking at the GCA: usually first trout drop before April 1.
8. Confer with John Reilly regarding letter to discuss control of the cap... plan as to how best to advocate for and take over GCA site from Columbia County Waste Management and DEC

## 2. Nicole: Update on CAC

Gallatin put out a notice through the TownHub email system in January to call for interest in the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC).

There were 13 individuals who expressed interest in roles on the committee.

Everyone attended a Zoom meeting together on February 24th from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

During this meeting, Nichole Martini, Gallatin Town Board Member, presented an overview regarding how the CAC is formed and its functions. Omar Al-Farisi also added significant information based on his own personal research regarding the laws and structures of CAC's in the state of New York.

There was discussion about the role of CAC and what other townships in the area have done including Ancram and Westchester County. This information was brought up by several attendees including Carol Smilie, Nancy Kuster, Omar Al-Farisi, Edward Tuck, and Stixxx Darmiento.

Additionally, the delineation between the Chair role of the CAC and the Columbia County EMC was made. Nichole Martini confirmed with the Chair of the Columbia

County EMC Michael O'Hara that the Chair of the CAC and the EMC Rep can be separate people. He also advocated that they should be separate people since the roles were both very time-consuming.

After the meeting, through several follow-up calls and emails, several attendees assessed at a deeper level their own capacity for the different roles.

This left the final structure to propose to the Gallatin Town Board for consideration:

**Chair**

- Gwen Greene

**EMC Rep:**

- Carol Smillie

**Members:**

- Omar Al-Farisi
- Stixxx Darmiento
- Jung Min Lee
- Nancy Kuster
- Madison Michetti
- Edward Tuck

**Sub-committee Members:**

- Deborah Maine
- Jonathan Mintz

Additionally, the following individuals expressed their desire to support future volunteer projects, but were no longer interested in the CAC after learning more:

- David Anderson
- Martin Costello
- Chris Lossee

**Resolution 2021-13** The Town Board Resolves to appoint Carol Smillie as the Town Representative to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council.

Motion Councilmember Martini second Councilmember Odell

Vote 5 Yes 0 No

**Resolution 2012-14** The Town Board resolves to appoint Gwen Greene as Chair of the Conservation Advisory Council.

Motion Councilmember Martini Second Councilmember Odell

Vote 5 Yes 0 No

3. Pat: Town Hall redo ideas

To elaborate on a discussion of the town hall building, I propose that we discuss the following:

1. The feasibility of expanding the building to include a larger meeting/community room, including a modest kitchen facility to better serve the needs of the town.
2. Reconfiguration of office space to accommodate the Supervisor, Clerk, Code Enforcement Officer, and Assessor.
3. Replacement, or repair, if possible, of HVAC system and generator.
4. Address the condition of the basement to ensure the adequate and safe storage of town records. Explore the cost and feasibility of creating a digital record-keeping system.
5. Address necessary maintenance, not covered under any approved expansion or renovation, including the roof, rotting sills, broken siding and peeling paint.

4. Michael: Update on Community Resource Packet

Mission of the town resource packet:

To create a living physical and digital document of the resources the Town of Gallatin and its citizens have to offer with the intention of expanding communication and civic engagement.

This document needs to be available to all members of our community, regardless of technological and transportation-related access, and to define and share the breath of ability present in our town as well as the amenities and functions of our local government, community organizations and local businesses.

General categories to include:

Welcome letter for new residents  
Local business Directory  
Basic town and government information  
Community organizations.

5. Lisa: State Retirement and the Town of Gallatin. Supervisor Reilly and I spoke to Assembly Member Didi Barrett's Office to get assistance, clarification, and feasibility on if the Town Gallatin can enter into the NYS Retirement System.
4. Supervisors prognostications on the impact of the American Rescue Plan on County/Town. Update on County topics. Columbia County is eligible for \$11 million dollars, Gallatin is eligible for \$170,000. More information is needed as to what the funds can be used for.
5. Supervisor comments on Ancram Solar Law and Gallatin impact. We will look towards the law as a model for Gallatin's zoning review.
6. Supervisor to name new Town Historian  
**Resolution 2021-15** The Town Board resolves to appoint Sarah Locke as Town Historian  
Motion Councilmember Paterson second Councilmember Moran  
Vote 5 Yes 0 No

#### **REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS (Email/Zoom Comment)**

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#### **MONTHLY BUSINESS SECTION**

1. Review of Board and Committee Minutes for Errors/Clarifications **Resolution 2021-16 Approve February 2021 Meeting Minutes and posting of any completed Committee minutes.**  
Motion Councilmember Moran second Councilmember Paterson  
Vote 5 Yes 0 No
2. Bill Review of Non-Recurring items- **Resolution 2021-17 to approve February 2021 bills (done by digital abstract review) for payment.**  
Motion Councilmember Odell second Councilmember Paterson  
Vote 5 Yes 0 No
3. Highway Superintendent Comments/Report- Read
4. Comments of Code Enforcement Officer-Read
5. Clerk Reports-Read
6. Assessor Comments- Valuation is being done on the Building Permits and Certificates of Occupancy.

**REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON OLD BUSINESS (Email/Zoom/Live  
Comment)**

**MEETING ADJOURNED BY RESOLUTION OF THE GALLATIN TOWN BOARD**