

A Town Board Work Session meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on April 11, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewisboro Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

PRESENT:

Supervisor	Tony Gonçalves
Council Members	Andrea Rendo and Richard Sklarin
Town Clerk	Janet L. Donohue
Absent	Mary Shah, * Daniel Welsh

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Jennifer Herodes, Deputy Supervisor/Comptroller Leo Masterson, Facilities Maintenance Director Joel Smith, Maintenance Assistant Shawn Johannessen, and Confidential Secretary/Benefits Coordinator Mary Hafter.

Approximately 14 residents/observers attended the live meeting and approximately 17 participated via Zoom.

Supervisor Gonçalves called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

Supervisor Gonçalves noted the exits to be used in the event of an emergency.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Three residents spoke during public comment period.

COMMUNITY & TOWN EVENTS

A resident would like the Board to consider having a Colombo/Columbus Day event and given the same financial consideration as all other events proposed to be held in the town.

Another resident stated that when the Veterans asked for money a few years back, they were told no and they raised the money that was needed. She also feels that all groups should have fees waived.

CLIMATE CHANGE

A resident feels that the oil and gas industry have enough land and permits to continue to drill and increase production, but it won't because it profits from the current crisis. He feels we need to start investing in real, clean sustainable energy.

COMMUNICATIONS

PROCLAMATION – Dana Mayclim

On motion by Councilwoman Rendo, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Sklarin	(3)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- Shah, Welsh	(2)

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY TOWN BOARD OF TOWN OF
LEWISBORO AT A MEETING HELD ON APRIL 11, 2022**

WHEREAS DANA MAYCLIM DURSO has served Lewisboro, New York, as Superintendent of Parks and Recreation for sixteen years of expansion and innovation inspired by Dana's enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to support the ideas of a relatively inexperienced staff; and

WHEREAS, DANA MAYCLIM DURSO leaves the Town with major improvements to its facilities including a totally re-built swimming pool complex, improved basketball and tennis courts, adding the popular pickle ball courts, dramatically increasing the popularity of the Leon Levy Preserve by expanding the trails, building a substantial parking area and making safe the "Black Mansion" and turning it into a rest area and cheerleading a \$650,000 campaign to build a handicap accessible playground; and

WHEREAS, DANA MAYCLIM DURSO successfully staged the "July 4" Fireworks with 3,000 attendees, operated camps for 700 campers, coordinated a basketball league for 66 teams and hired and supervised all the full time, part time and seasonal staff; and

WHEREAS, these achievements and years of public service to the citizens of Lewisboro are deserving of public notice, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, in recognition of these worthy contributions of DANA MAYCLIM DURSO, does hereby offer the thanks of its populace, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this April 11, 2022 Town Board Meeting for future generations to see and that a copy of this resolution be presented to DANA MAYCLIM DURSO.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES & REPORTS - Approved

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, the minutes of the March 28, 2022, Town Board meeting and the monthly March Police Report were approved.

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Sklarin	(3)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- Shah, Welsh	(2)

COMMUNITY & TOWN EVENTS – Park & Recreation Advisory Council Input
(7:43 – 8:01 p.m.)

*Councilman Welsh arrives at 7:59 p.m.

Supervisor Gonçalves read Councilwoman Shah’s notes from the recent PRAC meeting pertaining to the community & town events:

The Parks and Rec Advisory Council made the following recommendations about events, applications, and fees:

When events are over 30 people, they should get insurance coverage.

Requests for waivers for fees etc. should be decided by the Town Board.

There are two major types of events: Community events and Town-sponsored events.

Town-sponsored events are alcohol-free, fundraising-free (unless the funds go back to the town), and inclusive. Town-sponsored events are also administered by a town employee, so there is an accountability and transparency. People can contribute and sponsor events or aspects of these events.

Community events can have alcohol but must file the ABC application and have the proper insurance. The town can provide funding or grants, but it is recommended that if it is seed money that it be re-paid.

They recommended that a total amount be set and that a deadline announced for Town support for the events. A committee be formed to evaluate the applications and when the money runs out, groups would apply for the following year.

The PRAC Advisory Council voted, and it was unanimously approved that Juneteenth should be a town-sponsored event. I said that I would be the point-person for this event. There was also extended discussion about the Pride in the Park events as well as its family dance event. Because the application includes an ABC for alcohol, PRAC Advisory Council recommends that the Pride in the Park be considered a community event. Concern was also expressed that this will be happening the day after the Fireworks.

Councilwoman Rendo stated that there was some discussion about a line in the budget that would allow residents to apply for some of this money at the start of the year. Supervisor Gonçalves stated that there was some discussion that this money would be loaned out or an outright grant.

The expectation would be that if the group is fundraising, then the money should be paid back to the town. Councilwoman Rendo does not feel that the town should act as a bank. She does feel that it is fair for the town to waive fees but doesn't feel that the town board or a committee appointed by the town board should be responsible for determining which groups or events are more worthy of receiving funds from the town, which she said isn't a fair position to put anyone in. Councilman Sklarin agreed.

The Board will continue the dialogue at their next meeting.

NEW DAWN FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER – Presentation (8:02 – 8:12 p.m.)

Patty D'Agostino, President of New Dawn Family Resource Center, made the following presentation:

Thank you, Supervisor Goncalves and council members, for allowing us the time to appear this evening. For those of you who may not know me, I am Patti Reyes D'Agostino and serve as President of the Board of Directors of New Dawn Family Resource Center. Much has changed globally and locally since our last appearance before the board, including who sits on your board making it an opportune moment to be here this evening.

The mission of New Dawn Family Resource Center is to provide and expand support for programs and services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse and human trafficking in northern Westchester. Our focus is victims of these crimes because there are overlapping elements among them which result in psychological and physical isolation. When combined with our geographical location the challenge in accessing services is overwhelming, creating a perfect storm for lethal situations.

Our volunteer board is comprised of six members. A complete board profile will be left with you, but I will introduce and describe our board members.

Here with us this evening is:

Lynn Hillenbrand Borsellino – special education and mental health advocate, experienced event planner and communications professional as well as a Private Chef. She is committed to creating partnerships to evoke change. Lynn has served on the Board for the Mental Health Association of Westchester, co-founded our Peer Support group with Marisa and currently serves as Vice President of our board.

Marisa Moran– among many other things she has raised 4 children in northern Westchester, is an active part of the training team for the county wide High-Risk team, peer support advocate and co-founder of our Peer Support Group.

Our Treasurer, Frank Hillenbrand is a founding board member of NDFRC and a retired CFO of IBM Japan and IBM Australia/New Zealand, resident of northern Westchester for 50 plus years and years of experience as a member and leader of several local boards.

Our Secretary, Tamara Mitchel – is a founding board member of NDFRC and a partner at a leading NYS law firm - Bodnar Milone. She brings decades of experience in matrimonial and family law, including representing and advocating for victims of domestic violence. An active participant in several Boards and Bar Association committees, she also writes and lectures

extensively about domestic violence law and practice and has received numerous awards for her contributions.

Janet Faso – one of our newest members comes to us with 20+ years of global marketing experience and a former resident of both Pound Ridge and Lewisboro. She has served as the keynote speaker for the annual Greenwich Y Domestic Abuse Services fundraising event in 2021.

Chief David Ryan – well he really needs no introduction, 40 years in law enforcement, 23 years as Chief of Police in Pound Ridge. Serving on numerous boards and committees throughout the County. His leadership was significant and motivational in making New Dawn the site for training and meetings for the initial High Risk pilot program, a successful program which was a model for the expansion of the program county-wide.

And I, with over 20 years as an active Pound Ridge/northern Westchester community member, a marketing and branding professional, crisis counselor, divorce mediator, member of the Lewisboro Police Reform Committee, participant in the county's domestic violence council and appointed at large member of the Westchester Women's Advisory Board – just your typical multi-tasker.

Let's update you on what has been going on at New Dawn. Pre-covid we had started a peer support group, Pace Women's Justice Center had started a satellite walk-in clinic here supported by funding which Kitley Covill, in her position as Legislator at the time, helped obtain. Northern Westchester high risk team meetings took place regularly and police trainings had been completed. Hope's Door was using the site for individual counseling sessions for their clients. As with everything else – when Covid happened things came to a sudden halt and have evolved. So, here's where we are currently:

-Northern Westchester High Risk team meetings and Pace Women's Justice Center legal clinic, will resume here when able.

-Welcomed Putnam Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center as an active partner, having had staff at our peer support groups available for counseling, with additional possibilities in discussion for an expanded collaboration.

-Developing a relationship with SAAVE, Westchester Medical Center's Crisis Intervention program – it's Senior Director, Licia Sandberg has attended our peer support group. (Sexual Assault, Abuse and Victim's Empowerment)

-Participated in food insecurity programs under Chief Ryan's leadership during the holidays, providing families with much needed and appreciated Thanksgiving meals

-Established a very limited hardship fund that we are testing out with our clients

-Provide safe computer access via appointment to facilitate access to information and communication with support services, as well as remote court appearances. Use of the computer on-site provides for secure and confidential access outside of the control of the abuser. A need for additional computers is anticipated as the number of clients increases and service providers begin to meet in person with more frequency.

-Free cell phones and phone service plans are provided to our clients to facilitate their confidential contacts with support and legal services. This enhances their safety by removing their abusers' ability to access records of calls made on victims' cell phones.

-Outreach continues to expand – we have a website on the wix platform that describes our mission, programs/events, and how to get involved by volunteering, collaborations and donating. We also have a Facebook page and promote our services in various community settings such as this briefing, participation in the Pound Ridge Harvest Festival, posting lawn signs during October (National Domestic Violence Awareness Month). In addition, board members peak at professional conferences and other organizational meetings.

-Peer support continued during Covid on an as needed basis, in a socially distant and safe manner. Since re-starting in person meetings:

- *Average number of attendees per meeting has almost tripled since Covid at 2.5 times the rate*
- *During the summer we added a few youth sessions*
- *Over the past two years 20 individuals have attended, the majority of these post-Covid*
- *15 towns are represented among the attendees*
- *Of the 5 municipalities that came together to help us get New Dawn on its feet, the % of attendees are as follows:*
 - *Lewisboro 25%*
 - *Pound Ridge 20%*
 - *Somers 10%*
 - *Bedford 15%*
 - *North Salem 5%*

Our Programs that are in development include:

The establishment of the Richard B. Lyman Civic Engagement/Service Memorial Scholarship. In memory of Dick Lyman, a founding board member, friend, and mentor to so many of us, without his dedication to this issue, determination and support NDFRC would not exist today. The scholarship will be awarded to one high school junior or senior in the public-school districts that serve the communities of Bedford, Pound Ridge, Lewisboro, North Salem and Somers. The details and requirements will be announced in the next month, and we hope to have your support in distributing the information.

We are also establishing an Advisory Board, to serve as a liaison between the NDFRC Board of Directors and community sectors in which Advisory Board members have connections. Each Advisory Board member will be an ambassador for NDFRC by communicating its mission, programs and activities, as well as by bringing back to NDFRC ideas and suggestions from the community at large. Additionally, the Advisory Board will have an active role in the initial implementation of and the selection process for the first annual Richard B. Lyman Civic Engagement/Service Memorial Scholarship.

A program that is in the exploratory stage is the addition of therapeutic support services. Arrangements for trauma-related and counseling/therapeutic services for domestic violence victims at the NDFRC site are currently being explored. We are hoping to provide services regularly through collaborations with various county programs and other non-profit organizations and/or by NDFRC contracting domestic violence experienced professionals to perform those services.

Lastly, we have been fortunate enough to receive some generous donations and are now able to participate in the rent of the location, as an equal partner with the five towns. I have asked Supervisor Gonçalves to be our liaison in matters regarding the rental agreement.

The Board thanked Ms. D'Agostino for all that the group has done, and they look forward to their continued relationship. Ms. D'Agostino stated that she would be sending over some information to the Board electronically.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT – Recreation Supervisor Position

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the Recreation Supervisor position was approved during the budget approval for 2022, however, the town did not officially create the position and Civil Service requires this to be done.

On motion by Councilman Welsh, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Sklarin	(3)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- Shah	(1)
	Abstain	- Rendo	(1)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro hereby creates the position of Recreation Supervisor in the Town of Lewisboro Parks & Recreation Department, effective immediately and subject to New York State Department of Civil Service approval.

HIGHWAY – MEO/Mechanic Position

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the MEO/Mechanic position was approved during the budget approval for 2022, however, the town did not officially create the position and Civil Service requires this to be done.

Councilman Sklarin suggested that they wait to approve this until the financial numbers are received. When questioned, Comptroller Leo Masterson stated these figures usually come in late in the second quarter. They would also like to see the snow season financials. The Board will table this discussion until after the second quarter financials have been received by the Comptroller.

REZONING - Bacio Restaurant Parking (8:18 – 8:32 p.m.)

Michael Sirignano, attorney for Bacio Trattoria, made a brief presentation to the Board describing how they would like to rezone a certain property. Mr. Sirignano stated that Bacio, in 2016, went through a major renovation where the parking lot and building were expanded. The property is

approximately 2 acres and split into two different zoning designations: retail business and residential.

Bacio is now looking for more parking. The owner used to have an agreement with the business across the street, AIA, but that building has now been sold. They are looking to purchase the house on the corner of North Salem Road and Mark Mead. He would like to keep the two-family house as is but would like to tear down the garage portion and put 12-16 parking spots there. They are under contract to purchase however it is contingent on them receiving the zoning changes and permits required. They would keep the house and never use it for retail business. Mr. Sirignano stated they are currently looking to gauge how the board feels about the zoning proposal before submitting a formal application.

The Board will discuss this further but also suggested possible ways to make the area more walkable and safer.

BOARD OF ETHICS COMMITTEE – Discussion (8:33 – 8:36 p.m.)

Councilwoman Rendo stated that according to the Town Code, the Board of Ethics Committee currently has 3 members, 2 of which are town residents and one which is an employee. She stated that during some discussions amongst the Town Board members, it was agreed upon that all 3 BOE members should be town residents. Term limits for these members was also discussed and they would like to see these changes incorporated into a draft local law for further discussion. This will be discussed again at an upcoming meeting.

CLAIMS – Authorized for Payment

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, the Board voted 4-0 to authorize payment of the Town's bills in the amount of \$ 621,270.46.

POLLING OF BOARD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOOD DRIVE

Councilwoman Rendo stated the South Salem Fire Department & Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corps will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday, April 28, 2022 from 2-8 p.m. at the South Salem Fire Department. To sign up call 800-933-2566 or go to nybc.org/donate. Every donor will be entered into a raffle to win one of the following: Bacio Trattoria donated \$100 GC, LVAC donated \$100 GC to Bacio, Horse & Hound Restaurant donated \$100 GC, SSFD donated \$100 GC to the Horse & Hound Restaurant and the Lewisboro Lions Club donated \$100 GC to the Horse & Hound Restaurant.

SHREDDER TRUCK

Councilwoman Rendo stated that the Shredder Truck would be at the Town Park on Thursday, April 14th, 2022, from 9:30 am – 12:30 p.m. More information can be found on the website at www.lewisborogov.com.

LEWISBORO LANDTRUST

Councilwoman Rendo stated that the Lewisboro Land Trust would be holding a Spring Poetry Hike on Saturday, April 16th, 3-5pm - at Mt. Holly Preserve.

VISTA FIREHOUSE SPAGHETTI DINNER & OPEN HOUSE

Councilwoman Rendo stated that the Vista Firehouse will be holding a spaghetti dinner & open house on Saturday, May 14th from 5pm - 8pm at the Vista Firehouse (377 Smith Ridge Road in South Salem, NY). Tickets are \$10.00 for Adults, \$5.00 for Children (8 and under) and it's all you can eat. *All Tickets will be sold at the door*

ROADSIDE CLEANUP – Lewisboro Lions Club

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the roadside cleanup, sponsored by the Lewisboro Lions Club will take place on April 23/24, 2022. Orange bags can be picked up behind the Town House at 11 Main Street.

GOLDENS BRIDGE HAMLET ORGANIZATION – Pocket Park Clean Up

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the GBHO would be conducting a kick-off/Earth Day cleanup of the pocket park on Saturday, April 23, 2022. More information can be found at <https://goldensbridgehamlet.org/>.

HAPPY PASSOVER AND EASTER

The Town Board wished all who celebrate a very Happy Passover and Easter.

EASTER BUNNY & LEWISBORO LION

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the Lewisboro Lion and the Easter Bunny would be at the Town House on Saturday, April 16, 2022, from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. handing out goodie bags to the first 150 children that arrived, compliments of the Lewisboro Lions Club.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

An upcoming meeting of the Town Board will include a meeting on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss Appointments

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted 4-0 to go into executive session at 8:42 p.m. to discuss appointments.

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, seconded by Supervisor Gonçalves, the Board voted 4-0 to come out of executive session at 10:10 p.m.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL - Appointment of Members

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Sklarin, Welsh	(4)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- Shah	(1)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro appoints Sally Frank and Thomas Buczkowski to the Conservation Advisory Council for 2-year terms ending December 31, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue
Town Clerk