

A Town Board work session meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on April 24, 2023, 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, Mary Shah, Richard Sklarin, Daniel Welsh
Town Clerk	Janet L. Donohue
Absent	None

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Gregory Folchetti, Maintenance Employees Joel Smith and Shawn Johannessen.

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** (7:32 – 7:45 p.m.)

**PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE COMMITTEE BOND PROPOSAL**

A total of 6 residents spoke in favor of creating pedestrian and bicycle pathways within the hamlets of Goldens Bridge, Vista, and Cross River stating that it gives a sense of community, and it is a safety issue. It was also suggested that they make their comments known to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MINUTES** - Approved

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the minutes of the April 10, 2023, Town Board meeting were approved.

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

TREE ORDINANCE – Update (7:46-7:55 p.m.)

John Wolff, the Chair of the Conservation Advisory Council made a presentation to the Board proposing four changes to the Lewisboro Tree Ordinance at the March 13, 2023 Town Board meeting. He provided the Board with a redlined copy of the changes that they are suggesting.

The Board will take a closer look at what is currently in the Town Code, and the CAC recommendations and will discuss with CAC before a final draft of a local law is created for a public hearing.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH – Proclamations

PROCLAMATION – Bill Bongiorno

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

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, BILL BONGIORNO born and raised on Long Island, Bill Bongiorno graduated from SUNY Buffalo with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication, beginning a career in Manhattan as a newswire editor and eventually rising to Vice President at a Madison Avenue public relations firm; and

WHEREAS, BILL BONGIORNO after moving to Lewisboro, New York, in 2002, Bill founded Blue Chip Public Relations, Inc. and has worked for over thirty years as a leader in the financial services PR industry; and

WHEREAS, BILL BONGIORNO has served the community for years, as a Den Leader and Cubmaster for the Vista-Lewisboro Cub Scouts Pack 101 and Merit Badge Counselor and Trail to Eagle Mentor for Vista Boy Scout Troop 101, as well as a head coach for Parks and Recreation Baseball and the Lewisboro Baseball Association; has been a supporter of charitable, civic and community organizations; and writes for local newspapers; and

WHEREAS, BILL BONGIORNO, was instrumental in spearheading a \$100,000 donation from the family of long-time Town resident Arthur J. Vouté, to the Lewisboro Baseball Association for certain improvements; and

WHEREAS, this donation resulted in brand new construction of dugouts, new turf, pitching mounds, batting cages, upgrades to the sound system and installation of new signage and plaques, which has made the ball field at Lewisboro Town Park again something the town can be proud of; and

WHEREAS, BILL BONGIORNO was personally involved in overseeing the many facets of the improvements and leading the coordination with the Department of Parks and Recreation to make much needed repairs to buildings, railings, fencing, landscaping and appearing in person before

the Architectural Review Committee to gain the necessary town approvals and to provide for a successful opening day during the pandemic period; and

WHEREAS, BILL BONGIORNO has been called upon to contribute thousands of hours of his time and his many talents to civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself freely to volunteer; and

WHEREAS, supporting him unwaveringly has been his wife, Robbin, and their children, Sarah and Will, each of whom feel thankful, proud and honored by him as their father, to share in rejoicing in his many achievements that have benefited the children and the community of Lewisboro; and

WHEREAS, throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Bill Bongiorno has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, in recognition of his contributions does hereby offer the congratulations and thanks of its populace to BILL BONGIORNO, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this April 24, 2023 Town Board Meeting for future generations to see and that this resolution be presented to BILL BONGIORNO.

PROCLAMATION – Rob Cummings

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

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, ROB CUMMINGS OF SOUTH SALEM has been a resident of Lewisboro and the Lake Truesdale Community for over 20 years, and

WHEREAS, ROB CUMMINGS is a serial volunteer who never hesitates to give his time to the town and the Lake Community for which he created & manages the website truesdalelake.com, and

WHEREAS, ROB CUMMINGS was a three-season baseball coach for his three sons spanning 2003 to 2016 and has been the ceremony photographer for Lewisboro Baseball Association Opening Day, and

WHEREAS, ROB CUMMINGS, after a 20yr hiatus from running, fell in love with Trail Runs and directing races, and

WHEREAS, ROB CUMMINGS founded sundayruns.org in March 2010, offering runners of all different levels, opportunities to meet up creating a wonderful sense of community, and

WHEREAS, ROB CUMMINGS, in order to fundraise for the Ward Pound Ridge Trailside Museum as well as restoration of the park's fire tower, created Raven Rocks Run a challenging new 10k trail race, and

WHEREAS, ROB CUMMINGS is always willing to share his years of expertise with fledgling race directors including for the Church Tavern Biathlon and the White Church's Turkey Trot, and

WHEREAS, ROB CUMMINGS is Race Director of the Leatherman's Loop at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, the largest US trail race east of the Mississippi River with its 35th running on 4/23/23 and also Run the Farm at Muscote Farm which encourages runners of all ages to give trail running a try, and

WHEREAS, ROB CUMMINGS, stepped up when the idea of a community trail and Cross Country course behind JJMS & JJHS was revisited, ROB CUMMINGS has led fundraising, course design, bridge & boardwalk construction and in 2018 Rob brought the XC course closer to fruition with the founding of the JJTrail 5K under the umbrella of the John Jay Boosters Club organization, where ROB CUMMINGS serves as Treasurer, this 5K race raised money to build the course and support John Jay Athletics.

WHEREAS, ROB CUMMINGS, shares local happenings in his bi-weekly "Talk of the Town" column for the local newspaper, The Record Review.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, in recognition of his contributions and service to The Town of Lewisboro, does hereby offer the congratulations and thanks of its populace to ROB CUMMINGS, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this April 24, 2023 Town Board Meeting for future generations to see and that this resolution be presented to ROB CUMMINGS.

PROCLAMATION – Mike Surdej

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

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, MICHAEL SURDEJ is a resident of Golden's Bridge in the Town of Lewisboro New York, and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL SURDEJ has worked tirelessly for our Community by giving his time and expertise as a volunteer to various projects in the Town of Lewisboro, and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL SURDEJ is a long time member of the Town of Lewisboro Open Space and Preserves Advisory Committee, and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL SURDEJ, has mentored at least twelve Eagle Scouts and guided the development of several parks and preserves, most recently the Pocket Park in Goldens Bridge, and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL SURDEJ is one of the leaders of the Lewisboro Trail Volunteers, a group dedicated to maintaining and improving the many trails and preserves which are such a valued and integral part of the Town of Lewisboro, and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL SURDEJ, serves on the Westchester Land Trust Advisory Board, maintains easements and has designed and built many of Westchester Land Trust's kiosks including setting design standards for future kiosks to guide others in best practices in materials and longevity, and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL SURDEJ, has contributed countless hours to the following Preserves and Parks; Frederick P. Rose, Love, Old Church Lane, Pine Croft Meadow, Onatru Farm Park, Brownell, Old Field, Leon Levy, Lewisboro Town Park, and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL SURDEJ, is a dedicated friend to both people and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL SURDEJ, restored storm-damaged nesting platforms for Ospreys at the Otter Creek Preserve in Mamaroneck, among other Westchester Land Trust projects outside of Lewisboro, and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL SURDEJ, has that rare combination of grit and grace when it comes to managing volunteers, working with government agencies, and building literal bridges.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, in recognition of his contributions and service to The Town of Lewisboro, does hereby offer the congratulations and thanks of its populace to MICHAEL SURDEJ, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this April 24, 2023 Town Board Meeting for future generations to see and that this resolution be presented to MICHAEL SURDEJ.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – Fee Adjustment

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that a resident sent a letter to the Board regarding a timeline for obtaining a building permit. They stated that since the delays that led to their permit expiring were not their fault, it was not their responsibility to pay the additional fees and they wanted the Certificate of Occupancy as soon as possible.

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

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Town Board does approve the request from the Building Department applicant, Seth Christian, for a fee adjustment in the amount of \$500 and be it further

RESOLVED that a Certificate of Occupancy be issued at this time.

SOUTH SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEMORIAL DAY RACES – Police Coverage

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

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Town Board does approve the police department to provide coverage for the South Salem Presbyterian Church Memorial Day Races on May 29, 2023.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW – Appoint New Member

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

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Town Board does appoint Pam Brokate to the Board of Assessment Review for a term ending September 30, 2028.

LICENSE AGREEMENT – Approve & Authorize Supervisor to Sign

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Town Board does approve the license agreement between the Town of Lewisboro and the Hollander's of Post Office Road and be it further

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is authorized to sign said agreement.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Bond Presentation (8:21 – 8:36 p.m.)

Doris Peter, Chair of the Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee made a presentation to the Board (see attached) regarding a proposed bond proposition being put on the November 7, 2023 ballot for walkways/bikeways. Member Danielle Greenberg reiterated what Ms. Peter stated and also that there have been a number of accidents and these issues need to be addressed. Member Christine Schopen also mentioned that they are working on updating their page on the town website.

The Board thanked Ms. Peter for her presentation. The Board will continue their discussions with the Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee and determine what next steps will be taken. If it is decided to have this proposition on the ballot, the information would need to be into the Board of Elections by August 7, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT – New Business Only (4 residents spoke)

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE BOND PRESENTATION

Two residents suggested putting more pressure on the state for more money and getting them involved with the walkways/bikeways proposal as most are state roads.

VOLUNTEERS

A resident applauded the volunteers in our town and asked what a resolution means in present day terms and historical terms.

TREE ORDINANCE

Two residents stated that regarding the tree ordinance they would have liked to have seen what is there now and what was proposed in the agenda packet.

CLAIMS – Authorized for Payment

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize payment of the Town's bills in the amount of \$3,353,072.94.

POLLING OF BOARD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIBRARY UPDATES

April is Poetry & Autism Acceptance Month.

VOLUNTEERS

April is Volunteerism month. The Board thanked all the volunteers for all their hard work. The board acknowledged the Wallace family's contribution of land and are working on brining the land up to the condition that it should be.

GUN VIOLENCE

Councilman Welsh discussed several gun attacks that recently happened nationwide. In an effort to make a difference and to get unwanted guns off the street, Councilman Welsh stated that maybe the town could come up with a way to hand these guns in safely to our police department.

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN WORKSHOPS

**Opportunity Series 1:** Hamlet specific workshops (open house format)

**Saturday, May 13:** Goldens Bridge & Cross River Hamlets

**Saturday, May 20:** South Salem & Waccabuc Hamlets

**Saturday, June 10:** Lewisboro & Vista Hamlets

**Morning workshop:** 10:30AM – 12:30PM

**Afternoon workshop:** 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Childcare available (in partnership with Country Childrens Center) – registration recommended.

Drop in for either AM or PM workshop at your convenience and move at your own pace.

Provide input on the proposed vision & goals for a specific Hamlet and/or for the broader Town

There will be several different ways to engage, including independent activities and small group discussions.

**Opportunity 2:** All-Hamlets workshop (open house format)

**Sunday, June 11:** All Hamlets

**Evening workshop:** 6:30PM – 8:30PM

**Location for all:** Town Planning Offices, 79 Bouton Road, South Salem, NY 10590

Complete information can be found on the website at [lewisborogov.com/cmpsc](http://lewisborogov.com/cmpsc)

BLOOD DRIVE

The South Salem Fire Department and LVAC will be holding a blood drive at the South Salem Fire House on April 27 from 2-8 p.m. Reservations are encouraged by calling 800-933-2566 or online at [nybc.org/donate](http://nybc.org/donate).

MEETINGS – Dates Set

There will be a meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss Personnel Issues

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session at 9:02 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, the Board voted 5-0 to come out of executive session at 9:42 p.m.



ARCHITECTURE & COMMUNITY APPEARANCE REVIEW COUNCIL – Appointment of Member

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

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Town Board does appoint Steven O'Hara to the Architecture and Community Appearance Review Council for a term of three years commencing immediately and concluding December 31, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:44 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue  
Town Clerk