

**TOWN OF DEERPARK  
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

**August 7, 2023**

Meeting was held at Town Hall, 420 Route 209, Huguenot, New York 12746

**Invocation: Art Trovei**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Ken Smith**

**Call to Order: 7:33 PM**

**Attendance:**

**Supervisor:** Gary Spears

**Councilmen:** Art Trovei, Ken Smith, David Dean, Al Schock

**Town Clerk:** Flo Santini

**Attorney:** Glen Plotsky

*Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None*

*Presentations/Communications:*

*Virginia Dudko- We don't have many updates on the UDC but we did meet with a Senator to catch him up to speed on what is going on with the UDC. The National Park Service did come to a ruling of no for the FIMFO site at Kittatinny Campground, and the UDC said yes. The Banquet is coming up on September 10.*

*Bill Dudko talked about the litter sweep and that there were 15 bags of garbage that was collected. He expressed disappointment in how the Byway is going and that we should support the Chamber of Commerce more.*

**Motion to Approve June 5, 2023 Minutes**

Motion by Ken Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> by Art Trovei

**VOTES: 5 AYES: Arthur Trovei, Ken Smith, Alan Schock, David Dean, Gary Spears**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Public Comments:*

*Grace Woodard speaks about how there has been a lack of building inspections going on with Dragon Springs.*

*Supervisor Spears- That is precisely why we are hiring an inspector to specifically inspect Dragon Springs. The best way to stay in the know of what's going on with this is to attend the Planning Board meetings.*

*Old Business: None*

*New Business:*

*Supervisor Spears- Each year Florence Santini and many of our employees at the Town Hall put on a memorable 9/11 ceremony and many come to be a part of it. I am seeking approval for*

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**Motion to Approve 9/11 Ceremony to be Held**

Motion by Art Trovei 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Smith

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Ken Smith, Alan Schock, David Dean, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Supervisor Spears reads letter from Farr Engineering regarding the Town hiring an Engineering Firm to handle all Dragon Springs inspections, building permits, and Planning Board applications.*

**Motion to Hire Farr Engineering for Assigned Projects and Allow Amanda Gorr to Issue Paperwork**

Motion by Art Trovei 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Smith

**VOTES: 5 AYES (ROLL CALL):** Arthur Trovei, Ken Smith, Alan Schock, David Dean, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion to Approve Assessor Deborah Natalizio to Spend Budget to go to NYS Assessor's Conference  
Oct. 3-6, 2023**

Motion by Ken Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Schock

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Ken Smith, Alan Schock, David Dean, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

Bills to pay:

General Fund Abstract #12	\$126,511.77
Highway Fund Abstract #12	\$43,278.00
Total	\$169,789.77

**Motion to Pay the Bills**

Motion by Ken Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Schock

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Ken Smith, Al Schock, David Dean, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion to Adjourn at 8:06 PM**

Motion by Art Trovei 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Smith

**VOTE: 5 AYES:** David Dean, Art Trovei, Ken Smith, Gary Spears, Al Schock

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,



# TOWN OF DEERPARK

GARY SPEARS, SUPERVISOR  
ALAN SCHOCK, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR  
DAVID DEAN, COUNCILMAN  
ARTHUR TROVEI, COUNCILMAN  
KENNETH SMITH, COUNCILMAN

## Monday – August 7, 2023

7:30 pm Regular Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Version 8/7/2023

### Agenda

- **Invocation** – Councilman (Participation is Optional)
- **Call to order** – Supervisor Spears
- **Pledge of Allegiance** – Councilman -
- **Roll Call/Attendance** –
- **Addition or Deletions to Agenda** –
- **Presentations/Communications** – Updated on UDC by Dudko's
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- **Public comment period:** **“Agenda Items only”**
- **Department Head Report** –
- **Approval of Minutes** – June 5, 2023
- **Old Business** –
- **New Business** – Grant Permission for the Town Clerks office to request donations for Sept 11, 2023 Ceremony
- Hire an Engineering Firm for inspections and to handle all Dragon Springs Building Permits, Planning Board Applications. Allow Clerk A. Gorr to issue what needs to be done per new Engineering firms request and approval.
- Review for approval for Assessor D Natalizio to spend budget to go to NYS Assessors' Conference Oct 3-6, 2023
- **Appropriations, Budget, and Payment of Bills, Budget Officer Report** –
- **Closing Board Comments** –
- **Executive Session** – Litigation Matters (IF NEEDED)
- **Adjournment** -

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To My Fellow Project Review Members:

Since I just had surgery and am unable to be with you this evening, I want to share a few thoughts for your consideration. I wanted to put forth these thoughts at our special meeting, but because the audience was getting upset, and the time short, I did not.

As some of you know, I grew up in Minisink Ford in the 1950s and 60s near where Kittatinny is located and the proposed FIMFO site. Those grounds were then a boarding house location, where I worked, and before that a campground. Surrounding my home, "on top of the mountain," was Camp Wel-Met, which hosted between one and two thousand campers, counselors and related support staff every summer for most of the 1900s. The woods were full of cabins, dining halls, rec halls—most all which were non-movable, permanent structures. Just a few were tents put up for the summers, but even they were on platforms on concrete piers that could not be moved. In fact, our entire area had numerous boarding houses, bungalows, summer camps and the like, which filled the area from Memorial Day until Labor Day, at which time, everyone went "back to the city," leaving the area very quiet again until the next summer. The local "natives," so-called, knew this as a way of life, and many people counted on this seasonal influx for a boost to their wages and the economy—and young people, in particular, counted on this type of trade for our college funding and/or a financial start to life.

What we have seen in the years since is that a different type of population has located here. Smaller family homes have been replaced by larger McMansions, with the people living in them, who have moved from more urban areas, expecting more services. More of the woodland areas that formerly existed have disappeared to make room for this housing. In my case, for example, where the rustic Camp Wel-Met was, that was deserted for 10 months of every year, there are now many expensive homes and roads—formerly undisturbed wildlife tracts of woodland and pristine York Lake are now built-up housing developments. So I'm not sure that our so-called "residents" always preserve the so-called "nature" that we heard would be destroyed by this proposed developer.

But this is just a small part of my concern. When the River Management Plan was written, one part was written, yes, to protect the environment. BUT, just as important, it was written to protect the rights of private property owners. If you don't realize how important this part of the equation was—and still should be—I invite you to take a journey down Route 209 through the Middle Delaware area. That project condemned homes, farms, business, whole towns, taken by eminent domain. Today there is nothing there—no homes, no businesses—and the whole area is a "ghost town," that gets extremely limited use. You drive for miles with seeing only a couple cars using the area. You might say, "But this CAN'T happen here." Are you so sure? You might say, "But we HAVE private property rights!" But you are forgetting that the FIMFO project in question IS a property owner. And the people who are against this project are clamoring for the National Park Service to be the "heavy" to shut down this project. Is this the power you want to give away? How much else do we want the Park Service to be able to shut down? Is this, or is it not, a partnership? As our Project Review Chair, so aptly said, never before have we come to a point where this was not taken care of BEFORE it came to the point of not settling it as partners, rather than adversaries. People of the Town of Highland, I caution you—and any other town in our river valley, "Be extremely careful in calling for the National Park Service to be the 'heavy' and decide your future." This IS our future. Whether you decide to pass or reject this project, it should be YOUR call—for it should be local control. The River Management Plan, and those who came before worked VERY hard to ensure that our rights will not be taken away from us. Your town should be deciding your future. Your local town and its town planning board is the entity that should be making the decisions in this matter. And remember that each landowner, each business, just like this one is also an owner with private property rights—be careful of the federal government dictating who can do what, or we all lose.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia S. Dudko, Delegate, Town of Deerpark and Vice-Chair, Upper Delaware Council