

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on June 12, 2012 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of hearing interested persons for or against proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2012, which if adopted would repeal Chapters 28 and A156 of the Code of the Town of Moreau.

Supervisor Jenkins opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

The Town Clerk called the roll.

**Town Board Members Present**

Robert J. Vittengl, Jr.	Councilman
Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Preston Jenkins	Supervisor

**Town Board Members Absent**

Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
---------------	------------

**Also Present:** Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Karla Buettner, Attorney for the Town; David Canfield, Post Star Reporter; Steve Gram, Recreation Director (arrived at 6:40 p.m.); Town Residents: Reed Antis, Adele Kurtz; Bob Bogdan, Baseball Coach for Town Rec. Programs and Town of Queensbury Resident

The following Notice of Public Hearing appeared in the legal ad section of the Post Star Newspaper on June 6, 2012:

TOWN OF MOREAU  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Moreau Town Board on June 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, located at 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York for the purpose of considering the approval of Local Law No. 1 of 2012. Local Law No. 1 of 2012 as proposed, repeals Chapters 28 and A156 of the Code of the Town of Moreau. This proposed local law is intended to protect the health, safety and welfare of the Town's residents, businesses and visitors through the abolishment of the Recreation Commission. A copy of the proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2012 can be obtained at the Town Hall.

Dated: June 4, 2012

Jeanne M. Fleury  
Town Clerk  
Town of Moreau

Supervisor Jenkins welcomed everyone to the public hearing. He asked if anyone present wished to be heard.

Reed Antis stated that he has been following these proceedings and the Recreation Department for several years and it is a government agency that has not been run well. He wasn't sure if getting rid of the Recreation Commission was a good thing or bad thing. We have a Recreation Commission to set policies, set programs, to lead the department through and over the years it has been ignored or left to wallow and we are at a point where, right now, we have a Recreation Department that is not as well run as it should be compared to other communities in the area. He thinks the Town Board is at fault for this. He believes that all five members are why we are at this point. He said that Councilman Prendergast has been on the board for 20 plus years. Councilman Vittengl has served on the commission. Supervisor Jenkins and Councilwoman LeClair have been on the board for five years now and Councilman Kusnierz has been on

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on June 12, 2012 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of hearing interested persons for or against proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2012, which if adopted would repeal Chapters 28 and A156 of the Code of the Town of Moreau.

the board for ten plus years. We are at a point where we have no commission. We have poorly kept commission minutes. If we get rid of the Recreation Commission, who is going to set policy and who is going to lead that department, because if we have a poorly run commission and our department is at this point where we need to get rid of the commission, then what is in place that is going to change what is going on right now. The Recreation Department is one of the most important departments in our government where most individuals are touched by it. How many executive sessions have you had that are related to the Rec. Department over the last ten years. The numbers are probably amazing and probably double digits easily. He asked the board if they have any plans to change what is going on. He is disappointed that Mr. Kusnierz is not here, because he is the one that wanted something in place when the commission got disbarred or changed and he isn't here to offer something different. He asked what the board is planning on doing in the future.

Supervisor Jenkins said that they have already started it. When the board held their workshop on this topic, the board agreed to form a Recreation Committee. There have always been two council people working with the Recreation Commission and the Recreation Director. Obviously the authority went to the two council people and obviously the Recreation Commission was inconsistent. He said they could go back to when the Recreation Commission was effective and that was because we didn't have leadership in the Park and the Recreation Commission was heavily involved in the operations. He said now most of the people serving on the Recreation Commission are there for their own personal interest, whether it be softball or other areas. He stated that Councilman Vittengl and Councilman Kusnierz have been working together at the park and trying to make things happen. Speaking for Councilman Kusnierz he said, the Senate is in session and next week is the end of the regular session and he will have a hard time getting here if at all. If he can he is sure he will. He said that Councilman Kusnierz felt in our workshop that he wanted a committee and that we should run an ad. We are going to run an ad. We held off, because we still have a commission at this point.

Councilman Vittengl stated that they have taken to task some major projects to get the ball rolling. What they are trying to do is get a consensus from the board and take it to the director so the director makes it happen. The idea of setting up the committee is so the committee can feed ideas back to the board and the board can act on them. He said that being on the Recreation Commission and now the Town Board he can say that he thinks there were too many chains of command prior to this. The committee can give the board ideas to move forward with. It will streamline things and things will move more quickly. The way it is now it isn't getting done. People on the Recreation Commission are frustrated, people on the Town Board are frustrated and people that are using the services are frustrated. Now we can streamline it and make it happen much quicker.

Councilman Prendergast said they seem to be focusing on the last few years and he wants to make the people aware that the commission has been around for a very long time and a lot of good people have served on the commission and a lot of good ideas have come from those good people and a some of them have actually taken place down in the park. The fields and such you see in the park have come from people who were on the commission years ago. There were a lot of good aspects and that is why the commission has been around for so long. There were a lot of good aspects of the commission and a lot of good people who have volunteered their time. He said he was not going to sit here and hear how it was all bad, because it wasn't. We do have a great park and a lot of it has come from the people who have given their time. We have spent a lot of time over the years in executive session answering some issues down there and not all came from the commission. That is what was talked about earlier. He wanted to clarify this, because it is not true.

[Steve Gram arrived at 6:40 p.m.]

Reed Antis replied that he wasn't saying it was related to the Recreation Commission. He said that the board had a lot of executive sessions related to the Recreation Department.

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on June 12, 2012 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of hearing interested persons for or against proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2012, which if adopted would repeal Chapters 28 and A156 of the Code of the Town of Moreau.

Councilman Prendergast stated that he wasn't going to tie it into the Recreation Commission, because most of them had nothing to do with the executive sessions. There were other issues down there that the board had to deal with.

Reed Antis replied that he wasn't trying to.

Councilman Prendergast stated that the reason he didn't want to ax the commission years ago was because he believes the people should have input and it shouldn't just come from the Town Board. At the meeting held downstairs when this was discussed his input was that he still wanted some type of committee, because he still wants the people to have a voice. They won't run the park and the commission didn't run the park and he still wants them to have a voice. There have been a lot of good people over the years. The commission was started for the right reasons and a lot of good people served for the right reasons just to help the community. It hasn't been all bad and there has been a lot of good.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that over time the Recreation Commission has changed. He said if you read the code on the Recreation Commission it appears that they can run everything including budgeting, but there is language in there that brings everything back to the board. In general the document grants them power and the board can take it away. The Recreation Commission has had a difficult time dealing with that and it has been difficult for the Town Board who makes the ultimate decisions. He stated that on the agenda for the regular meeting there is the topic of RFP'S for a concession stand and he hoped that the board would accept a proposal tonight to build a little league concession building. He has been trying for the past three years to get information to make this happen. There was one session on this and in 15 minutes the Town Board got it done. The other RFP's are due in on the cold storage building. The actual physical condition of the park is tremendously better than it was four years ago. We also have more programs than we did four years ago. We now have winter programs. There are a lot of defects in our system and he will be the first to admit it. He isn't happy quite a bit of the time. There is a letter that will be mentioned in the regular meeting that compliments the staff at Rec. that was received from Youth Baseball, whereby the staff after a rainstorm went out and made the fields playable again. He said they get criticized a lot, but they do a good job there. People tend to point out their weaknesses and not what they actually do.

Bob Bogdan said he now lives in the Town of Queensbury, but he lived in the Town of Moreau for 17 years and taught in South Glens Falls for 30 years. He still has a vested interest in the community as a former teacher and coach. He still volunteers his time as a coach at the Rec. in the baseball program. He served for two terms on the Recreation Commission and said that Bob Vittengl was the cog in the wheel. He made things happen through many volunteer hours and he saved a lot of money. He helped the commission and directed them. He said he quit the Recreation Commission at one time due to his frustration for many of the reasons mentioned and came back when the administration changed and then he moved away. He suggested that the committee focus on programs and program development for youths through seniors. It needs to be coordinated through all aspects of the community. He said they tried this on one occasion by bringing in people from the school who didn't attend regularly and they should, maybe quarterly. He said they could save a lot of tax dollars if they involve the school district personnel, parents from the various groups and students. He said the students have a lot of good things to offer in regards to the programs. The idea of a skateboard park was brought up at one time. It was a great idea. There is one in Lake George and there should be one here. Seniors should also be represented and maybe the Moreau Community Center personnel can participate. He mentioned a senior softball program. He said his clinics and camps don't always get good attendance. That is due to lack of communication and lack of publicity. He said he was happy to see on the Town's website when all the programs are held. However, not everyone uses the internet. We should spend a little money and get some of this published. Even though the program guide is twelve pages long, other communities do it. It would result in more participation in the programs and make people aware. The director or a designee

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on June 12, 2012 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of hearing interested persons for or against proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2012, which if adopted would repeal Chapters 28 and A156 of the Code of the Town of Moreau.

should increase the PR and advertise in the Post Star on the rec. page two weeks prior to the event starting. People do rely on print.

Steve Gram stated that the program guide is distributed to everyone in the school district.

Councilwoman LeClair said Bob Bogdan is right about the newspaper though. When she opens the newspaper she sees flyers from Queensbury, Wilton and the YMCA. She said she has seen them over the last couple of years. It must work for them and it must increase their programming otherwise they wouldn't spend the money on the ads.

Steve Gram stated that he does send the information to the Post Star and it goes in the camp section. The camp section is run every Sunday.

Bob Bogdan suggested that Steve Gram send the program schedules separately to the newspaper two weeks prior to the event and not send them a mound of information and expect them to dissect it and figure out what he wants run. Take the activities that are going to start within two weeks and send it as a separate notification to the newspaper. He said that Steve Gram has to take the initiative to do this.

Steve Gram said he does.

Bob Bogdan replied that he hasn't seen his advertised except one year.

Councilwoman LeClair said that Steve Gram does post it. She said there is the question of the cost and they haven't looked into the cost. Wilton uses a bright green or yellow piece of paper and it is a loose insert. It is an overview of the programs.

Adele Kurtz stated that there was a comment made about personal agendas on the commission as it stands now and people are there for softball. She asked how they were going to avoid that. She also read in the newspaper that the Recreation Commission Members were going to be asked to join the Recreation Committee and the board was going to advertise to fill vacancies.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that at the workshop the Town Board held on this topic it was requested that we should directly notify those currently on the commission and he agreed with that. He didn't say "all people", but there were several issues. How are we going to avoid that? It is going to be very difficult. You can't compare what happened twenty five years ago in meetings. There is a different structure now. Years ago there were many people who served on the commission who were there for the public interest and not for one particular program. Most of the people who have come onto the commission have had strong involvement in particular programs and that shouldn't be the goal of the committee. We have to recognize everybody in the community. We have talked to Steve Gram about senior programs. He would like to see it happen. The difference will be that they will have a better understanding of what it means to be on the committee and they will work with Councilman Vittengl and Councilman Kusnierz to make things happen. Councilman Vittengl and Councilman Kusnierz have both shown a strong interest since they teamed up. They have been together at the park on some weekends working on projects. He thinks that anybody who wants to volunteer on the Recreation Committee we will be put on the committee to bring new ideas forward. The decision making will be done by the Town Board, but primarily it will be Councilman Vittengl and Councilman Kusnierz who will deal with the Recreation Committee and they will bring ideas to the Town Board and if they make sense we will give it a try. He said we have tried taking people to the beach and it didn't work. We tried to take people to the Moreau Lake State Park and that didn't work. We tried to set up a playground program at elementary school sites and that didn't work. Those are things that used to work, but don't anymore. We know we have to make changes. Nothing is the same as when he was young. There is a difference in how things are done.

Adele Kurtz asked how many people will serve on the Recreation Committee.

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on June 12, 2012 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of hearing interested persons for or against proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2012, which if adopted would repeal Chapters 28 and A156 of the Code of the Town of Moreau.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that the board hasn't decided this yet, but he assumes that the number will be seven to nine people. It depends on how many people are interested in serving on the committee.

Adele Kurtz stated that Supervisor Jenkins said that ideas would be brought to the Town Board and the Town Board would have the final say. She stated that a lot of the ideas that the Recreation Commission came up with were not acted upon, because it wasn't what the Town Board felt was in the best interest of the Town and she agrees with that. She stated that her concern as a resident is that there are five people serving on the Recreation Commission right now and there have been two vacancies for quite a while that the Town Board has chosen not to fill. She also stated that it has been said a couple of times that there are people who are serving on the Recreation Commission right now who have an agenda. She asked Supervisor Jenkins if he was saying that if those five people want to serve on the Recreation Committee and the one person that he feels has an agenda will not be allowed to serve.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that he didn't say that. He only has one vote out of five. Usually anybody who wants to volunteer he will support them and the board has in the past. It has been like we have had another level of government. He used the little league concession building as an example. He doesn't know how many times he has gone round and round with this with youth baseball and the Recreation Commission. Everybody wanted something different. There was no conclusion on what we should have. He referred to Adele's comment about the Town Board not listening to the Recreation Commission and said that he doesn't know how many times the Town Board has asked the Recreation Commission to bring things to them in resolution form with documentation in advance of a meeting so they could make a decision and that never happened in the 4 ½ years that he has been on the board.

[Garth Baker, Chairman of the Recreation Commission, arrived at 6:50 p.m.)

[Jesse Fish, Water Superintendent and Peggy Jenkins, Assessor arrived at 6:50 p.m.]

Adele Kurtz stated that what she meant was that she was referring to what Supervisor Jenkins said in that they would bring things to the Town Board and it wasn't what the board felt as a whole should happen down at the Rec. and they didn't act on it. The frustration on the part of the Recreation Commission is that they spend time on this and bring things forth to the board and the board doesn't agree with their suggestions. Getting rid of that step isn't in the worst interest of the community, but to get rid of the Recreation Commission for the sole purpose of getting rid of one or two committee members is an issue.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that isn't his goal. He said if he wanted to do that he would have done it a long time ago. They had many sessions over those issues and every time they just asked for things to change. They didn't ask for anybody to leave the Recreation Commission. He personally doesn't have a problem with anybody on the Recreation Commission. He just thinks that it doesn't work. He isn't saying it is their entire fault. The Town Board just wants to maintain their power, which is what they were elected to do, to make those decisions.

The Town Clerk informed the board that Elizabeth Lanfear dropped off a statement that she would like read into the record.

Supervisor Jenkins told her to go ahead and read it.

The Town Clerk read the following statement from Elizabeth Lanfear:

"Statement by Elizabeth Lanfear to be read into the record at the 6/12/12 Public Hearing regarding the dissolution of the Town of Moreau Recreation Commission. As I have prior commitments with my children, I have asked that this be read into the record at tonight's meeting. As a member of the Recreation

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on June 12, 2012 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of hearing interested persons for or against proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2012, which if adopted would repeal Chapters 28 and A156 of the Code of the Town of Moreau.

Commission since 2008, I have learned a great deal about our park and programs as well as the Town of Moreau as a whole. Consequently, I make this statement with the knowledge that the Recreation Commission will no longer exist in the very near future. It has been stated by a member of this board that the Rec Commission has too much power. That baffles me, due to the fact that in the recent past, the Rec Commission has attempted to accomplish things which would benefit the Town and the Park, but the Town Board prevented it. The Rec Commission wanted to construct a sign on Route 9 which would be used as a communication tool to inform the Town as to events both at the park and throughout the town. A member of the Rec Commission volunteered to design, construct and install the sign. The Town was only asked to pay for the materials. Town Board members said no to the sign, but later agreed to pay hundreds of taxpayer dollars on a slop sink in the highway garage and more for a break room refrigerator than most of us spend on the ones in our homes. The Rec Commission wanted to integrate the fall soccer program, in keeping with the SGF School District "Bulldog Pride" theme which focuses on the district as a whole and not as separate building entities. Again, the Town Board said no because a handful of people didn't want it. What surprised me most was that the Board members who said no haven't had children in elementary school for more than a decade. In fact, no member of this board has had children in our school district for years. Conversely, the current Rec Commission members have children in each of our school district's six buildings. When we meet, there is someone who has first-hand knowledge of each school. The Rec Commission asked the Town Board for maps or surveys or something which would enable us to look at all the property of the Rec Park so we could work on planning the future build out of the park. The Town Board ignored the request, but plans to shoot from the hip and put up a pole barn, renovate a broken down concession stand and possibly build lacrosse fields with no thought to planning the future of the entire park first. To say that the Rec Commission has too much power is simply something to say. It has no merit, whatsoever. As a matter of fact, members of this board voted at an audit meeting to pay an invoice which was ordered by then Rec Commission member, now Councilman, Bob Vittengl. If anyone were to listen to the audio of that audit meeting, they would have heard Supervisor Jenkins and then Councilman Cumm complain about the fact that a volunteer who had no authority to order something on behalf of the town, did such a thing. At a later date, they voted to expend town funds to cover the invoice, anyway. I have listened to countless complaints about the current Rec Director. I know that some of them have made it to the town and some have not, due to the fact that people fear retribution and they know nothing will be done. If the Town Board chooses to ignore these complaints, that is up to the Board. I was told that I was not allowed to make a complaint about the Rec Director and the way he ran the basketball program when I was present at a Town Board meeting. The open meetings law allows for the public to be able to have their say if the Board has a public comment period, which our Town does. However, the administration apparently does not allow it. At some point, the members of this Town Board need to remember that they represent all the members of this Town, not just the ones who voted for them. They should certainly represent the town residents who are not yet old enough to vote. That's what the Rec Commission has been trying to do, and that's what members of this Board seem to be afraid of and are no longer going to allow.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Lanfear"

Supervisor Jenkins asked for a motion and second to close the public hearing.

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on June 12, 2012 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of hearing interested persons for or against proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2012, which if adopted would repeal Chapters 28 and A156 of the Code of the Town of Moreau.

A motion was made by Councilman Vittengl and seconded by Councilwoman LeClair to close the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilman Vittengl	Yes
Councilman Prendergast	Yes
Councilwoman LeClair	Yes
Councilman Kusnierz	Absent
Supervisor Jenkins	Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk