

**TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE  
TOWN HALL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MARCH 16, 2011  
SUMMARY  
7:36 P. M.**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Myers  
Councilman Eagleton  
Councilman Conte  
Councilman Cifone  
Councilman Krakower  
Councilman Tancredi  
Town Attorney Nelson  
Town Clerk Miller

**ABSENT:** Councilman Lecker

**AGENDA ITEMS**

03:16-COW1 PRESENTATION New York State Energy Research &  
(SUPERVISOR Development Authority (NYSERDA)  
MYERS) **TABLED UNTIL APRIL**

03:16-COW2 DISCUSSION Greenway Environmental Services  
(COUNCILMAN Compost Facility  
TANCREDI) Shabazz Jackson & Josephine Papagni,  
owners of Greenway Environmental Services, spoke to the Town Board on their report on filling in a portion of the Frank Wells Site and to establish a composting facility on said site for the Town of Poughkeepsie which should be of no expense to the Town after the initial installation. On July 7, 2010 the Town Board issued Resolution 7:7 #23 of 2010 authorizing Greenway to seek approval from the NYSDEC, on behalf of the Town, to fill in a portion of the Frank Wells Site and to establish a compost facility on said site. On November 2010, Greenway submitted to the NYSDEC site plans, copy of resolution, Copy of Flood Plain Ordinance and description of plan. The NYSDEC determined that the Town has jurisdiction over the flood plain and therefore no Federal or State permits were required; The NYSDEC would review the fill permit, the application and issue a solid waste permit and designate the Town as lead agency. The next steps are to develop a contract between the Town of Poughkeepsie and Greenway; develop a fill permit application to the Town; develop the part 360 Composting Application to the NYSDEC and apply for technical assistance grants to offset the cost of developing the applications.

**THE TOWN BOARD QUESTIONED HOW MUCH THE FILL WOULD COST AS AN INITIAL EXPENSE AND SUPPORTED THE COMPOST FACILITY.**

**(OVER)**

03:16-COW3 DISCUSSION Permit Requirements & Review Process  
(DIRECTOR OF For Installation Of Fences  
MUNICIPAL Director Wilson spoke about the current  
DEVELOPMENT process of review and permitting of fences  
WILSON) which mostly involve fences that people put up  
as part of their houses, residential fences. The regulations are up to a 3 ½ foot wall, fence or hedge in the front yard with a front yard set back of usually 30 feet and up to a 8 foot wall, fence or hedge in the back yard. A little over a year ago we instituted a process that requires a \$10.00 permit fee and that the people requesting a fence come in so that we can take a look and advise people approximately as to the proper location of the fence and placement in the yard. We still have a number of people who go and put fences in without permits. Now the Zoning Administrator is picking these illegal fences up. The other issue is that the idea behind limiting walls and fences and hedges in the front yard is to avoid sort of a corridor affect down our streets. We didn't necessarily need a 30' set back so the question that I have for the Board is whether you want us to take a look at the regulations and make a recommendation back to the Board to either keep or drop the permit process and/or to change the limitations on the height within the front yard and the setback. Do you want us to consider a lesser set back in the front yard?

Supervisor Myers was concerned about the length of the front yard set backs since a lot of residents don't have room for a 30 feet set backs for the front of their houses. The residents can get a variance of the 30 foot set back from the Zoning Board but the Town is trying to limit the visits for set backs to the Zoning Board at the same time.

Councilman Tancredi discussed that he understood the need for safety in seeing over the fences, beyond that, he didn't feel the Town should become involved or interfere and he thought that the \$10 permit fee should be eliminated.

Councilman Krakower thought that the \$10.00 permit should be kept because it would possibly save a thousand dollars in problems. It wouldn't hurt to look at the regulations for height and set back.

Supervisor of Highways Marc Pfeifer stated that the right of way on the side of the road is 10' for the front or corner and that needs to be followed. There are many people who put fences 2' or 3' from the street and when we plow, we break them and then the residents want us to fix them.

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Councilman Conte suggested that the Highway and Zoning Department should coordinate about this issue and then send people who sell fences a sheet of paper that says "this is the reason why we ask for the setbacks" so that people who sell fencing would be informed of the law.

Councilman Krakower: If people realized that we are not here to hurt them, we are here to help them and to educate them, would be a large help and also would save the Town from grief and the home owners some grief of having to possibly take the fence down.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:35 P.M.**