

**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF COXSACKIE
PUBLIC HEARING
April 7, 2015**

PRESENT: Richard Hanse, Supervisor
Patrick Kennedy, Councilman
Michael Veeder, Councilman
Bambi Hotaling, Town Clerk

ABSENT: Thomas Hobart, Councilman

GUESTS: Suzanne Frenk, Donna Greiner, David Hans, Warren Mueller, Clark Pell, Frank Gerrain, Brandon Snooks, Andrea Loguidice, Carol A. Metz, Nick Dellisanti, Jerald L. Meigs, Earl K. Hotaling, Kim Rose Jeffrey Rose, Constantine Liapis, Paul Rother, E. Trusedell, Sal Bevilaqua, Hank Stohr, Kerri Corrigan, Carla Hillicoss, Robert Messina, Russell Messina, Richard Bassin, Jean Bassin, Betty Cure, Tim O'Dell, Ted Hilscher

PRESS: Melanie Lekocevic

The public hearing on proposed local law #1-2015 (revised) was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Richard Hanse with the Pledge of Allegiance. The legal notice was presented. Supervisor asked that comments be directed to the board and be limited to three minutes.

The following public comments were offered:

--Jerry Meigs stated this is a waste of time and that every business is required to file a special use permit; new law not necessary. Three minute time limit is unfair; meeting is a waste of time. This situation has caused a rift with his neighbors.

--Councilman Kennedy stated that Mr. Meigs is one of the neighbors that brought the Article 78 against the Town.

--Brandon Snooks, Rogue Hospitality stated that Coxsackie is a wonderful community and wedding venues are good for local business and growth. The proposal is too restrictive especially restriction of on- site food preparation.

--Andrea Loguidice, Rogue Hospitality agreed that the no on-site food preparation is too restrictive—already regulated by NYS Department of Health. Commercial operations/pre-existing conditions need to be better defined.

--Jeff Rose stated that wedding venues are good for the area. The legislative intent in section 2 has a negative tone. 100 foot setback is sufficient instead of 300 feet. Special event venue should be referred to as commercial event in all places. Food preparation on-site should not be prohibited. Six hour time limit not practical. Fee schedule per event is prohibitive. Occupancy restriction (paragraph G) is unnecessary.

--Dr. Bassin agreed with everything Jeff Rose said. More than six hours are needed for an event. They want to prepare fresh food on site, caterers are licensed. Guest accommodations should be more than proposed.

--Paul Rother stated that wedding venues are good for business. Coxsackie is a beautiful area. Possible lack of understanding as to on-site food preparation. He can vouch for Rogue Hospitality and has worked with Dino & Maria at Pegasus for years. Culinary trend is boutique weddings.

--Jean Bassin stated that having to stop music at 10:00 pm is too early, 11:00 pm is better.

--Susanne Frenk read a prepared statement indicating the economic value of wedding venues. Property value has suffered because mixed use was changed to industrial. Regulations seem restrictive. Off-site parking should be allowed, 300 foot setback is too far, 50 foot setback enough in a mixed zone, and restriction on overnight accommodations should be removed. Toilet vendors should be allowed. What is the fee schedule? Suggested that the wedding party pay the fee not the venue owner.

--Hank Stohr overnight accommodations are too restrictive. Not fair to limit fewer than what you are able to accommodate.

--Warren Mueller not against business, purpose of zoning is to protect residents; residents have property investments as well; 300 foot setback, should be more than that; 10:00 pm not too early. No enforcement has taken place. Mr. Mueller recited portions of the Article 78 decision.

--Evelyn Truesdell lives two doors down from Owl's Hoot and has stated from the beginning that noise has not been a problem. She promotes new business and welcomes change.

--Donna Greiner, Greene Lake Road, works part time at Owls Hoot; people need jobs, wedding venues good for local economy. Rules are needed but business should not be prohibited.

--Earl Hotaling, currently there is no fee schedule. Fees should be different for different categories. Residential areas should have more restrictions, food preparation should be allowed on-site. Need to move forward.

--Kerri Corrigan, every zone is not equal. Need clarification of zones. Residential area should have larger setback, mixed use shorter. Wedding venues should not be prohibited in an industrial area.

--Dave Hans, 300 foot setback not enough. Who gets called if there is a problem, no decibel levels in new law?

--Andrea Loguidice reiterated that different zones should have different setbacks.

--Carla Hillicoss, Bronck Mill Road, noise cannot be controlled, music from the wedding venue is not an issue for her, Thruway noise is louder.

--Warren Mueller, Thruway predates zoning; amplified music is a new issue.

--Evelyn Truesdell, how is noise created by lawn mowing controlled?

At 7:55 pm a motion to close the public hearing was made by Patrick Kennedy seconded by Michael Veeder and duly carried.

Bambi Hotaling, Town Clerk