

Special Town Board Meeting

via-Zoom Video Conference

June 23, 2020

4:00PM

*Supervisor Mettler states that pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 202.1, this meeting is being conducted via video conference. The invitation to the meeting has been posted, the public is present, and they are both able to see and hear and they will be invited to speak at the Open Forum. There will be minutes for this meeting and this meeting will be recorded.*

Members Present via Zoom: Supervisor Mettler, Councilperson Wolf, Councilperson Gansowski, and Councilperson Sullivan.

Supervisor Mettler opens the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Mettler stated that the before going into Executive Session, the Town Board has some new Town Hall business and also to considering the issue of if, whether, and how to open the Town Park.

Supervisor Mettler states that in order to discuss the issue of whether or not the Town Park should open, Supervisor Mettler reached out to various people, one of whom is Rob Fitzsimmons, who is the County Attorney, Jack Maab, the Director of Columbia County Department of Health, and Diane Moore, coincidentally, a Copake resident who is an operator on the NYS Department of Health Hotlines. All three had given Supervisor Mettler good advice.

Diane Moore suggested Supervisor Mettler share with the Town Board a quote from Governor Cuomo's June 11, 2020 press conference where he states that the "issue of playgrounds will be left up to local jurisdictions."

Diane Moore concludes her conversation with Supervisor Mettler by saying that ultimately the decision rests with local municipality after careful consideration of local infection data etc.

On June 19, 2020, Supervisor Mettler reached out to our insurance Broker, Kirk Kneller as well.

On June 19, 2020, Supervisor Mettler received a guidance letter from the NYS Department of Health, sent by Jack Maab, published the day before.

Supervisor was told that the Town Board should be looking at the statistics with regard of the spread of the virus. Supervisor Mettler has been getting weekly updates not just from the Department of Health, but from Jeff Woods who has been putting all of the statistics on a spread sheet for Supervisor Mettler.

On June 22, 2020 Supervisor Mettler met with the Copake Task Force and after a lengthy discussion, they were recommending immediately that the Town open the tennis courts and the skateboard park. That we erect signage directing participants to exercise in social distancing and that could be done immediately.

On July 6, 2020 the Task Force is recommending that we allow other fields to open including baseball, softball, and soccer. As for basketball, there is concern because that is deemed a high risk sport. The Task Force is recommending the Park Building and bathrooms to stay closed.

Supervisor Mettler explains how the Task Force came to these recommendations. One being Governor Cuomo's June 11, 2020 press release statement about leaving the decision to local jurisdiction and secondly in the most recent guidance from NYS that was issued on June 18, 2020, that effective July 6, 2020 that in regions that have reached or surpassed Phase 3 of the state's reopening, in accordance with this guidance, participants of lower and moderate risk sports and recreational activities may partake in all types of play except in competitive tournaments requiring travel. Participants in higher risk sports and recreational activities may only partake in individual or distance group training.

The Task Force also discussed the Town Hall. Supervisor Mettler states that about a week or so ago the Town Board allowed committees to meet in person because the limit for persons meeting was raised from 10 people to 25 people.

The Task Force suggested that if a committee is meeting and can maintain social distancing, people can take off their masks if they choose.

The above lead to a discussion of possible meeting dates for caucuses. The Task Force recommended that the Town allow these caucuses be held at Town Hall. There is still a 25 person limit for any meetings but will leave it up to the parties to take responsibility for enforcing the rules and the Town Hall will not be responsible. Supervisor Mettler will send a letter to either party to let them know that the responsibility of social distancing guidelines will fall on them.

The Task Force then recommends that we continue to limit meetings to Town meeting.

Supervisor Mettler then reached out to Kirk Kneller to lay out our plan and it was well received and happy to approve.

Supervisor Mettler has drafted a memorandum that sets forth all rules and expectations of the reopening of the park.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski that the Memorandum dated June 24, 2020, that the tennis court and skateboard park will open this week and the remaining fields, playground and courts be open on July 6, 2020 according to the conditions set forth in the Memorandum and further that the protocol regarding Town Hall be amended as set forth in the Memorandum and further, the Supervisor will have the ability to amend any protocols in her discretion, set forth in the Memorandum of either NYS Guidelines or circumstances make an amendment necessary.

There was a brief discussion of signage and hand sanitizer.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded Gansowski by Councilperson for the Town Board to go into Executive Session for the purpose of meeting with Attorney regarding the project.

All in favor. Motion carried.

The Town Board went into Executive Session at approximately 4:35pm. The Executive Session was not recorded.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to come out of Executive Session.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Mettler states that for the record, there were no decisions made in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to adjourn this meeting.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,