

Windham Weekly

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Windham Comprehensive Plan Given New Life Through Film

By Michael Ryan

WINDHAM - The modernized Windham Comprehensive Plan has gone Hollywood after more than a year of writing and re-writing the script.

Town supervisor Thomas Hoyt, at a meeting last week, announced that several local residents are serving as sort-of movie stars, adding a cinematic touch to an otherwise mundane pile of paper.

Eight film snippets have been produced for the community's revised Master Plan, replacing the 2002 version, spelling out what Windham stakeholders want their town to be and how to either stay put or get there.

It has been a journey worthy of a Bob Hope and Bing Crosby "Road to..." picture show, starting out normally with the simple goal of creating a committee of residents who would focus on specific topics.

Plan A was to hold regular get-togethers while gathering as much input as possible from residents, business owners and visitors, organizing the various thoughts into a living, breathing document.

While the Master Plan is not legally binding, it can become a vital reference tool for what kind of development occurs and where it happens.

It also provides leverage when applying for grant funding to make real what has been imagined, a critical factor in any small, rural town.

Meanwhile, back at the Plan A ranch, a massive wrench was thrown in the gears when Covid hit, sending everyone scurrying to the sanctity of their homes and causing project consultant Helen Budrock to shift to Plan B.

She didn't actually have a Plan B but transforming the unexpected into the necessary, Budrock set

up computer sessions, keeping the information flowing and sticking pretty close to the original completion deadline.

Public hearings on the Master Plan are tentatively setting up for late August and in the meantime, Budrock and professional videographer Kevin Witte will be busy in the cutting room.

Their job will be taking a day-long shoot and editing it down to something suitable for popcorn and soda (or candy if that's your movie preference).

It won't exactly be a car-chase thriller, but it is neighbors and folks you know from around the corner and down the street up on the silver screen.

Okay, so it's a little video camera but the unrehearsed conversations with the "stars" is vintage stuff, telling a story beyond the printed word.

"I don't know of anybody else in Greene Coun-

ty who has done a shoot like this," Hoyt said in a followup interview, noting the concept occurred to him when a similar plot unfolded at his regular job.

Hoyt works as safety officer for Greene County Occupational Safety & Health, recently being involved with a presentation on Worker's Compensation, a dull subject if ever there was one.

Adding a spontaneous element to the seminar - or at least as spontaneous as it could get - lent an interesting human touch, turning the Alfred Hitchcock light bulb on in Hoyt's usually cut-and-dry head.

"This definitely adds a little spice to it," Hoyt says, noting he mentioned the concept to fellow committee member Marianna Lehman who knew Witte, recruiting him for the task, paid for from the Master Plan budget.

Budrock embraced the

notion, serving as director and interviewing the movie stars at different spots around town such as Main Street in Windham, C.D. Lane Park in Maplecrest and the Windham Path.

The town supervisor's background choice was the wastewater treatment plant, recording his five minutes of fame in front of a bunch of dials.

Hoyt is his name. Sewer and water are his game. "I'm a little crazy over infrastructure," he confesses as the audio and video capture it all.

While the various scenes have not yet been spliced together, the interview segments were as follows (with their particular subject in parenthesis):

Carol Shaw (Housing), Bob Rhoades (Planning), John O'Grady (Natural Resources), Lisa Jaeger (Economic Development); Christine Doolan (Transportation), Karl

Gonzalez (Recreation), Lehman (History) and Hoyt (nuts and bolts).

Some of what they said will likely end up on the cutting room floor, although a "Director's Cut" could be popular on the Film Noir market.

Doolan, for instance, playfully sticks out her tongue at one point. O'Grady goes off on a stream of consciousness ramble about the irreplaceable peace and quiet and priceless surrounding mountains.

Each person lends their unique personality to the storyline which, when all is said and done, makes everything uniquely said and done.

"Once we get the final cut and are happy with it, we'll show it at our public hearings and send it to the county planning board for their 239 review," Hoyt says. "This isn't just words on paper. We could be trend-setters."

Magic on Main Aug 13th and 14th

Come join Magician Sean Doolan for Magic on Main, an intimate magic show in his private library located in a historic building on Main Street in Windham, New York. Sean will weave his very personal story of transitioning from a trial lawyer to a magician in interactive, mind-blow-

ing magical routines. In this parlor show, Sean will demonstrate the limitations of the human mind through techniques he learned as a student of the ancient art of sleight of hand, and a lifetime as a trial lawyer.

Shows are at 8pm on Friday, August 13th and Saturday, August 14th.

Can't make those dates or times? Please reach out to us to request a different date for your group.

Seating will be limited to ten people and the show is approximately 60 minutes. Appropriate for ages 10 and up. Tickets are \$10 each. There will be no walk-ins for the show. Reserve your seat by texting or calling 518.734.4218 or emailing WindhamMagic@gmail.com. Tickets can be paid for through Venmo or PayPal, using email account WindhamMagic@gmail.com, or by check.

The show is at 5428 State Route 23 (Main Street), Windham, NY 12496. Parking is available on-site.

For more information about Sean Doolan, visit www.SeanThePrankster.com and follow us on FB @WindhamMagic.

Here's what a recent magic show attendee had to say, "We had a fantastic time at your show! We've been talking about it all morning, trying to remember all the jokes and tricks. It is hard to find an activity that everyone will enjoy, and you hit the nail on the head! It was just what we were hoping for."

C-GCC Professor Co-Authors Study on Earthworms

A Columbia-Greene Community College professor has risen to an international level of acclaim in her area of study, having published an article in the scientific journal Biological Invasions.

C-GCC Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Rebecca Pinder, Ph.D., is one of 23 authors from around the globe who authored "The second wave of earthworm invasions in North America: biology, environmental impacts, management and control of invasive jumping

worms".

Pinder explained the work originated from an International Earthworm Symposium held at Colgate University several years ago and provides readers with an overview of jumping worms -- a small species from Asia -- and their impact on ecosystems across North America. Her contributions to the paper include sections related to the ecology of earthworms in riparian habitats and niche-structured assemblages of exotic earthworms in headwater

streambanks, both researched in New York State.

"The paper also makes suggestions for steps that can be taken in response to the spread of this invasive species," said Pinder, who served as the sole community college representative on the team. "It is very exciting that it is finally out, and that it puts our name out there on an international level."

For more information, please visit sunycgcc.edu or call 518.828.4181.

Cairo Couple Arrested for Robbery

On Friday July 16, State Police Catskill were dispatched to a complaint of a robbery on County Route 23B in Leeds. It was determined that a female complainant was subjected to physical force in her driveway and

her belongings were taken. Investigation by state police with assistance from the Town of Cairo Police Department resulted in the following persons charged with Robbery in the 2nd Degree a Class C Felony.

John L Prosser, age 52

of Cairo, arraigned before Town of Catskill Justice William R. Jacobs and released.

April Cogswell, age 35 arraigned before Town of Catskill Justice William R. Jacobs and released.



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