

Amherst Town Board members want street names to be significant

by **JESSICA L. FINCH**
Associate Editor

During Monday's work session, the Amherst Town Board revisited a September resolution that gave the board the authority to name new subdivision streets.

Council Member Dan Ward's Sept. 19 resolution shifted naming authority from the Planning Board to the Town Board and instructed that names with significance to Amherst be selected.

According to the resolution, it is the policy of the town "to

name, designate or commemorate all public buildings, facilities, streets, highways, bridges, parks, landmarks and public works and places of all and any kind if at all, only with the names of persons or organizations that have substantial connection to

the history of the Town of Amherst."

Gary Black, assistant director of the Planning Department, presented the proposed procedure to the board on how to legally name a street under the new guidelines.

"According to fire control, the name has to be consistent with the 911 system. There can be no duplicates, neither the name or sound of the name," he said. "It creates a fire safety issue."

In addition to checking the proposed street name with the fire control office, the name also has to be approved by the U.S. Post Office.

In the past, subdivision developers submitted names they would like used in their subdivision. Black said the new policy would allow them to choose from a preapproved list of 50-100 names that had been submitted by the Amherst Museum.

This would ensure that the name have a significant tie to the town.

He informed the board that the review process can be lengthy, and this debate has already put three projects on hold. Black's request to grant permission for those projects to move ahead with their own names was held until Monday's meeting.

total agreement of the procedure and plans to discuss the process further.

Council Member Bill Kindel said that although he liked the concept he thought because the developers were spending a lot of money on their projects that the board should speak with them about the procedure.

Planning Director Rick Gillert agreed, pointing out that marketing is very important to subdivision developers, who often choose a theme when naming their streets.

A resolution mapping out the details is expected to be drafted.

"This is very significant to the future of our town," said Supervisor Satish Mohan.

In another matter, the board called a special meeting to amend a recent resolution that lowered the temperature of all town buildings to 68 degrees during the day. Due to complaints, the board approved a new temperature setting of 70 degrees.

The next Town Board meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18 at Town Hall, 5583 Main St., Williamsville. Visit the Web site www.amherst.ny.us for agenda information.



CHRISTMAS KARAOKE — Anita Lagree, 7, left, and Analiese Piccillo, 7, perform the holiday favorite song, "Silent Night" during the Traditional Family Christmas event held at the Amherst Museum this

past Saturday. Horse-drawn wagon rides, a visit from Santa Claus and crafts were also part of the celebration.

Photo by John Rusac

The Town Board was not in e-mail: jfinch@beenews.com

Getzville Post Office reaches 150th anniversary

On Sunday, Dec. 10 the Getzville Post Office marked its 150th anniversary, and a celebration was held on Monday.

Postmaster Sharron O'Neill said the office honored the legacy with a daylong customer appreciation event, including treating those who stopped in to a piece of cake.

"Even though it is a busy mail time, it has been 150 years and we want to celebrate that," she said.

The current location, 2655 Millersport Highway, opened in 1996. Prior to that, the Getzville Post Office had a few other homes.

The first postmaster of the Getzville Post Office was George Hoover, according to "A History of the Town of Amherst, N.Y." written by Sue Miller Young.

Other past postmasters include Jeremiah C. Lamphier, who served from 1858 to 1878, and John Kobel, who had the post office in his grocery store when he was postmaster. Kobel was succeeded by George Hausauer, who kept the post office at the same place.

Joseph Bucher was named postmaster in 1887

and again moved the post office, this time to his grocery store. It remained there through the terms of Frank L. Bucher and Eugene G. Bucher.

For more than 50 years the post office moved from site to site (not always convenient to Getzville) until it found a home in the Getzville Railroad Station in 1909. Upon the settlement, Arthur Kimball was named postmaster. That remained the location for 31 years.

Anna L. Hausauer, who became Mrs. George Kenyon, was the first postmistress. She served until 1942 until Wallace G. Clare was appointed in 1964.

A new post office opened on Campbell Boulevard in 1963 and was led by Walter Fitzgerald.

A second Campbell Boulevard location was built in the Getzville Plaza. During its 125th anniversary, 1981, Ronald Bubb, was serving as postmaster.

There are some conflicting stories about the first post office but reports from The Amherst Bee in 1981 said Jacob Getz owned land in 1854 that included a large building that served as a store, social hall, and later a post office. It also named him as the first postmaster.



Susan Maurer enjoys a piece of cake at the Getzville Post Office while making a stop to mail a package during the office's 150th anniversary. A line of 15 formed behind her during this busy mailing season.

Photo by John Rusac

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