

MEET THE TOWN'S NEW PLANNING BOARD

The Woodstock Association photographer sneaked into the fourth meeting of the Planning Board on Friday evening, March 18, and photographed its members at work.



Milton Wagenfohr

The following are short biographies of each Planning Board member:

LEON CAREY, age 62, appointed for 1 year

Moved to Woodstock in 1924. Attended Stevens Preparatory School and worked as an architectural draftsman after serving in the Navy in World War I. Was a merchant in Woodstock for 30 years, running at various times the News Shop, a clothing store, a restaurant, and a delicatessen. At present Postmaster. Has been very active in town organizations since moving here. Has been president of the following: Winter Sports Association, the former Chamber of Commerce, the former Business Association, Woodstock Square Club, the Woodstock PTA, was one of the organizers of the American Legion, served as deputy town clerk one term and as town clerk two terms. Is a trustee of the Library, and past president of the Ulster County Postmasters Association. Was one of the originators of the Woodstock Christmas Eve Program, and co-chairman for its first two years. Proposed the Outstanding Citizen award, which is given by the Square Club each year.

KENNETH DOWNER, age 57, appointed for 5 years

A native-born Woodstocker, a painter, he attended Columbia University, the Sorbonne, Academie L'Hote in Paris, studied under George Grosz in the Art Students League. Worked on the Federal Art Project, was director of the Federal Arts Center in Spokane, Washington. Taught art at Mitchell Junior College, Connecticut. Saw duty in many countries in the War Shipping Administration. For 10 years in the United Seaman's service, established recreational facilities for seamen abroad. Did welfare work in Armenia for the Near East Relief organization. Is on the board of the Woodstock Artists Association, past president of the Democratic Club, a member of the Zena Fire Dept.

MARTIN F. COMEAU, appointed for 4 years

Moved to Woodstock in 1931, has been a lawyer about 25 years, former town attorney, 1936 - 1946. Has been active in many civic organizations, including the American Legion, former trustee of the Library from 1934 - 46, treasurer of the Woodstock Sesquicentennial in 1937, at present a director of the Woodstock Guild of Craftsmen. Trustee of Rondout Savings Bank. Served in the Navy in World War I.

DUDLEY G. SUMMERS, appointed for 2 years

Has been coming to Woodstock since 1921 and has been a permanent resident since 1947. An artist, member of the Woodstock Memorial Society, a director of the Woodstock Craft Foundation, also member of New York Illustrators Society, Salmagundi Club. During the war under the auspices of the USO and other organizations visited camps and hospitals of servicemen sketching them.

J. CONSTANT VAN RIJN, age 58, appointed for 7 years

Immigrated from Holland in 1941, moved to Woodstock in 1943. Graduated from the University of Delft in Holland with a masters degree in electrical engineering, he was successively employed by the Bell Telephone system in Europe and the Far East, self-employed as a designer and manufacturer of electronic equipment, employed by the Philips Company first in Holland and later in New York City, since 1943 self-employed as a free-lance consulting engineer specializing in industrial electronics and in 1947 started Rotran Manufacturing Company, first with only a laboratory in Woodstock, followed by manufacturing and now spread to Bearsville and Saugerties. Is a licensed New York State professional engineer, vice-chairman of the Woodstock Association, and was the Square Club's Citizen of the Year in 1957.

BENJAMIN L. WEBSTER, age 62, appointed for 6 years

Born in New York City, came to Woodstock in 1909, alumnus Yale 1920 and University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture 1923. Industrial designer by profession, devoted 15 years to theatrical production and in 1923 and 24 directed Woodstock's Phoenix theatre in what is now the Turneau Opera building. In 1938 was managing partner for Norman Bel Geddes and Co. Saw war service in Air Force Intelligence as consultant to the Chief of the AAF and was responsible for laying out the war room in Washington. Subsequently with WBP. In post war established a New York City office specializing in industrial design (which incidentally created the now well-known Rotron trademark). Recently broadened activity to cover management counseling. Member of the New York Regional Plan Association and recently Chairman of the Woodstock Association.

CAROLYN H. WILSON, appointed for 3 years

Born in Chicago, a painter and member of the Woodstock Artists Association, she has been in Woodstock since 1945. Her husband, Reginald Wilson, is also a painter. They have two children, Carolyn P. and John. She graduated from Carleton College in 1935 and received an M.A. from the University of Chicago. Later taught art. She also does craft work in silver and enamel. Is a trustee of the Library, on the board of the Guild Cooperative Shop, on the board of the League of Women Voters.

A PROGRAM

The following is the verbatim text of the press release handed out by the Town Supervisor at the public Town Board meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 1960:

On Monday, March 14, the Woodstock Town Board held its first joint meeting with the newly appointed town Planning Board. This meeting was called by Supervisor Abram Molyneux in order to create a program, establish cooperation, and generally discuss problems relating to town development. The meeting was a productive one and it was decided to hold similar joint meetings on a more or less regular schedule.

The work of the town Planning Board may be divided into two categories. The first concerns long-range projects, of which three were agreed upon. One of these is the making of maps of existing conditions in the entire Township. These will serve many purposes besides the one of being a starting point in developing any future plans. The second long-range project agreed upon is the development of a general plan for the future physical development of the Township. This is the core of a Planning Board's work and the one that justifies its existence. Woodstockers should realize, however, that it is also the most difficult one and one that is likely to take considerable time before it is at the stage where it can be laid before the citizens and discussed in public. The third long-range project is the development of recommendations regarding improvements in our system of roads and their associated traffic problems. This particular assignment has some more

immediate aspects because matters will come up for decision, every so often, which require immediate action and which cannot await the maturing of an overall general plan for town development.

In the second category of matters which have been referred to the Planning Board, there are four of a more limited scope. The first of these is to study what may be done to control and improve signs and billboards inside the Township, and this is one on which some beneficial results could be expected fairly soon. The second is to develop plans for the conservation and enhancement of the village square in the village of Woodstock. Although here again some benefits may come forth before long, it is a project which is likely to extend over many years. The third is to study what may be done to preserve the natural beauty of the Township. Finally, it was decided that the Planning Board will assist the Town Board in its present efforts to find immediate solutions for the grave problem of off-street parking.

With a program of the above extent, the new Planning Board finds itself well stacked with work and indeed with problems. It is expected that the seven Planning Board members will call upon the cooperation of the citizens for assistance in some of this work. The Planning Board expresses the hope that Woodstock will realize the difficulty of its task and will not be impatient and expect too much too soon.

LIBRARY SHELF

Those interested in town development will find a wealth of literature, specially gathered, in the Woodstock Library. This material is being furnished to the Library as a public service by the WOODSTOCK ASSOCIATION. Suggestions for additions to the "planning" shelf will be welcomed. Write to the SECRETARY of the Woodstock Association, P. O. Box 684.