



AMY CONKLIN STAMM CONTINUES FAMILY LEGACY

BY: Keith S. Shikowitz, Editor in Chief/Investigative Reporter

Amy Conklin – Stamm is only the second female town supervisor in Rockland County history. As such, her election made history in Stony Point, making her the first female to hold the position. Not only did she make town history, but she is also continuing her family's history of leading Stony Point. Her grandfather Lucien Conklin was town supervisor from 1973 – 1984.

Outside of her family history, Stamm is very familiar with the supervisor's job because she was the aide to Jim Monaghan for 5.5 years of his tenure in office. In business and government, they say that the secretaries are the ones in charge and the boss is just the figurehead. Knowing the inner workings of the position, was it everything she expected?

"You know, yes and no. It was very much what I expected because as you know I've worked in the supervisor's office, the previous supervisor, going on 6 years ago, I guess, you know, 5.5 years, let's call it, and, so I knew, I knew what to expect. I know the basic flow of the office kind of what goes on, on a daily basis.

I know what to expect with regard to phone calls and residents' questions, you know, those are the kinds of things I was handling under. Supervisor Monaghan."

She also agreed that it's different sitting out there answering the calls, sitting with him than being the one that the calls are being sent to. "That's where I was headed."

"I have to say to, to your point, towards, you know, the latter part of his term, his last term, and once I was appointed deputy supervisor, I was handling most of those things on my own, every so often there was a resident who wanted to speak directly with the supervisor, but most residents were okay with speaking to me. I was able to satisfy their complaint or speak with them and in was this past year it was a lot of calls on CHPE project that I was able to speak to our residents on. So, I had a lot of practice, so that was good, so in that sense, I kind of know what, or knew what to expect.

But the first call it's,

I guess it's been 7 going on 8 weeks, it's been busy aside from that normal flow of residents calling or stopping by or things like that."

She's been setting up a lot of meetings just to meet with people. These meetings included department heads and has been meeting separately on a regular basis just to keep up with what's going on throughout the town. She has also met with the people at the library, Stony Point battlefield, which she says has been keeping her very busy. She has an aide Jake who she said is doing a great job and he's able to handle a lot of the things that come in, so, So, it's in a large part what she expected. The days have been very busy, and they go very fast. "I didn't expect the days to go as fast as they do."

<https://youtu.be/tFIMaJ6Zo08>

How much of her grandfather's style is she adapting to her way of doing things?

“Well, I think just that I'm finding that I'm able to be the most productive when I'm talking with someone face to face whether it's a department head and an issue that they have or a resident, somebody from the community that needs something, the face to face meeting, I think, is just a good way to get to know those people and understand what the problems and issues are and work towards a solution or an understanding and then go from there.”

Her grandfather passed away when she was only 15 as such, she didn't get into her adulthood where she got to ask those really serious questions about what he liked and disliked and what he felt were his challenges as a supervisor. “I would love to ask him those questions now.”

Being officially in office for only two months, the list of accomplishments is generally not very long, but what does she feel she's accomplished in that time? “I'm getting rolling on a lot of different initiatives, in terms of accomplishments. There's been some things that the building department that needs our code. I'm focusing a lot on our code enforcement. I want to make sure that they have the tools that they need to do their

job effectively, so there's a lot that can be done there and we'll slowly make progress on that list but we're making some progress with getting some software updates.

They needed some assistance from our attorney with regard to some of the cases that they're taking to court when they issue a court violation or a court appearance ticket to someone who has a code enforcement violation. I'm making some, some slow but steady progress there.”

They've had a lot of positive things which she says have been fun. There have been three 100th birthday celebrations that they were invited to.

There were two ribbon cuttings with a third one the day after this interview. She told of a resident got in touch with her office to ask if they could recognize his neighbor who doesn't ask for anything but just goes and helps people shovel out their driveways.

“He'll just go around with a snowblower and, and he just does it. He doesn't want anything. People try to give him gifts or give him money. He doesn't take anything, but he wanted his neighbor to be

recognized. So, these are like the fun things.”

Education is a very important thing in every community and Stamm has gone to both elementary schools for their read in days.

“That's just all good stuff. I went to the Wayne Hose, Chief inspection dinner. I went to the Rockland County PBA awards dinner.

Those are really fun and positive things that I've gotten to do in just two months. And the other thing that I think we're making good progress on is we're seeking out grant funding wherever we can.”

“Just today I submitted a request for funding to Assemblyman Eachus' office, for some upgrades and enhancements up at our pool and also for some improvements in the area in the Letchworth area Court Building, Kirkbride. There's some things we want to do up there and these things are expensive. Yeah, some of those buildings need some major overhauls. The ones that aren't being used. The ones that aren't being used are, yeah, that's a completely different story. For the ones that

are, Kirkbride our court building, we're just seeking some funding there for some improvements that we'd like to do and the community center building.”

They're doing that and trying to seek out any kind of grant funding that they can. They've also started work on their streetscaping project, which was part of the initial CHPE agreement, the town received money to be used for streetscaping along the 9W corridor. Now that the construction is done, CHPE construction is completely 100% finished. They'll be in Stony Point or along the entire corridor.”

“I know for sure in Stony Point. The reason why I think that they're completely done through the corridor is that they're planning on starting their repave in the spring and if there is anything left to do, it'll be very minor and very quick. They would like to start, they're going to start the repave in Clarkstown and work their way north, and they'd like to be finished by early July.”

Has anybody, Talk to CHPE about making the businesses whole for the millions they lost along the corridor?

According to Stamm, there has been some discussions

with Congressman Lawler's office, CHPE, TDI, and Blackstone. there may be some progress he's kind of handling that through his office.

I think that it was a long tough year for a lot of our businesses particularly the ones this section north of the bridge where for a large part of the year there was daytime construction being done by Orange and Rockland moving gas mains and then there was nighttime construction being done by Chippy which was actually laying the electric line. So, these poor residents and businesses north of the bridge were almost 24/7 affected. There was definitely an effect south of the bridge too.”

<https://youtu.be/EDshNZq2XeQ>

Governor Hochul and the state legislature passed a law requiring that all local elections in NY take place in even years, getting rid of any odd year campaigning and elections. As such all of the people who were voted into office in every town in 2025, have to run again in 2026.

I know you're up for reelection this year because of the law that even year election law, which I know a lot of people are against, and I think they're still fighting it in ways, but they're putting up with it for now.

What have you got planned over the next 8 months to that point, let's say up to October. Do you have anybody running that's decided to throw the hat in the ring against you?

“Not that I'm aware of yet.

There is still time for someone to make that decision, but as of today, I have not heard of anyone.”

“Let's say that somebody might come out and decide to run. What will set you apart from any opponent, so people would say, yeah, okay let's give her a chance to do a whole term.

“If I were to have an opponent, what sets me apart from that person?”

After a brief pause she said, “What sets me apart, I believe, is number one, my experience having been working in this office. Let's call all the players. I know everyone and, and they know me.

“What also sets me apart is now that I'm in this seat and I'm gaining, the experience and the community is getting to know who I am and seeing all of the positive things that we're doing aside from all of the fun things where, we updated our town logo, simple things that we're yeah we just launched that Tuesday.”



OLD LOGO



UPDATED LOGO

“Our logo is, is very historic, and, you know, it shows, General Anthony Wayne, so we kept that look, you know, because that's a nod to our history, and just kind of gave it a fresh coat of paint, the logo that was just kind of a simple black and white or blue and white silhouette of the general is now colorized and looks fresh, new and modern. Something simple like that, but also I think people will see the momentum that I'm gaining.”

The next thing they are going to be starting work on is updating their comprehensive plan, which she says is something that residents have been suggesting for some time that the town do.

They're going to get going with that within the next month or so.

“We've got the America's 250th this year and we're holding a town carnival in July as a way to celebrate that and bring the people from the community out to just celebrate our 250th and just our love of Stony Point. That'll be July 8th to 11th. We'll have a band every night. Friday night there'll be fireworks. We have carnival rides and games, and it's really going to be a fun event.”

“What else will set me apart is that I'll be out in the community. We're going to be working on a lot of good things, good positive things for the community, the comprehensive plan, the carnival. We're working on plans for a landmark 80 ft flagpole on a piece of property that we own at the commuter lot which will just be something that the town could be recognized for and there'll be a little pocket park around it so people can sit there and just enjoy the view and maybe get lunch from one of the delis across the street and things like that. I think is what will set me apart and give me that advantage and, and hopefully the residents of the town agree that I deserve the reelection, and they'll vote me in for two more years.”

Three weeks ago, now at this point, was the polar bear plunge. Normally they're in the water no matter how cold it is outside, but this year the ice was too thick, and it was definitely too dangerous, so they didn't dive in.

<https://youtu.be/wWjqsU1kViw>

“We joined together with the town of Haverstraw for two events coming up in the spring, Law Enforcement Day, which is Saturday, May 2nd, that's held at the park over in Garnerville by Helen Hayes. We'll be participating in that. The North Rockland 5K is another big fundraising event that we do for local families to try to raise money. They do that at, bowline, and we do that with the town of Haverstraw. We've got our two meetings already to start the planning of that. So that's coming up, I think that's June 7th. It's a Sunday.”

They'll have their Memorial Day parade, which we do every year. That's actually on Memorial Day, and I know that that's something that the townspeople really like, so I'll be working on that as well.

They have a strong Stony Point Police Department to participate with that and the sheriff's department, I believe participates in that as well.

Is there anything else you want to say to the constituents about upcoming events, yourself?

“There are a lot of exciting upcoming events. I'm hoping, you know, that we get a great turnout from our town for the cleanup day, the law enforcement day, the North Rockland 5K, you don't have to, you don't have to be a runner to participate. I think people walk it. There's a kids, a free kids' race for they have all different age levels.

You can come and your kids can run in a, in a kid's race, which is a lot of fun too. We've got those coming up, the parade, it's always great to see people turn out for the parade, and then the carnival in July. I'm hoping to get a lot of the community out for these events. You know, I love Stony Point. I want people to be able to enjoy some of these events that we're, that we're gonna be hosting or participating in.