

## TOWN OF HOWARD PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Planning board members present: Andrew Burdin, James Fodge, Barry Kidder, Robin Phenes, Shane Slayton, William Thew, Brad Laverty

Absent: Sean Turner

Guests: Fran Sharp, Richard Stewart

William Thew called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and read the minutes from the February 15, 2023 meeting. Jim Fodge made a motion to approve the minutes as read and Robin Phenes seconded the motion. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye, Thew, aye.

The board members reviewed a subdivision application submitted by Frances Sharp. Brad Laverty noted the survey map that was provided did not indicate how the divided parcels would be absorbed into the larger parcel, which was an important detail for the County records. Concern was noted that the subdivided lots would be smaller than the building lots in the subdivision law, but it was agreed that if the lots were sold in the future, a variance could be requested to develop the lot. William Thew will ensure the necessary modifications are made to the survey so the information can be recorded properly with the County. Shane Slayton made a motion to approve the subdivision application. Seconded by James Fodge. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye.

Barry Kidder provided an update on the new salt storage building, including the grant awarded by DEC which will offset the cost. The Planning Board included a vegetated visual barrier stipulation in the approval of the application, so Barry Kidder researched some tree options and various costs for the vegetated hedge. The town must pre-pay for the trees before the nursery will dig them. Jim Fodge made a motion to take the recommendation to purchase arborvitae to the Town Board. Motion seconded by Shane Slayton. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye.

Jim Fodge drafted a Logging Law, which was essentially a logging notification law. Shane Slayton questioned the need for a local logging law if the Highway Superintendent has authority to protect the roads from damage through existing laws. In a petition that Richard Stewart had circulated previously, the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (sections 393 and 1219) and the Highway Law (sections 140, 214, 320, and 326) were referenced, but the actual wording of those sections was not provided. Andrew Burdin made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting so the Highway Superintendent can attend and explain the need for the law, and the board can research the sections of the existing law. Barry Kidder seconded the motion. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye.

An opportunity for continuing education credits will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> in Corning. Registration is \$75.00. Brad Laverty reminded board members that the presentation he provided previously regarding battery storage can be counted toward the continuing education credits.

The next Planning board meeting will be held on April 19, 2023.

8:20 pm: Robin Phenes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Shane Slayton.  
Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye.