

TOWN OF HOWARD PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

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

Excused: Brad Laverty Absent: Sean Turner, Josh Furgeson

Guests: Richard Stewart

William Thew called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. William read the minutes of the June 2023 meeting. In the June meeting, the previous minutes from May 2023 were approved. Gary Rice voiced concerns about the logging law not having any enforcement action, so fines will be included in the law. If someone fails to comply, there will be written notice, the second instance of non-compliance will receive a fine, and the third offense will be a larger fine. The Planning Board did not meet in July 2023.

The Planning Board discussed the procedure for meeting minutes and distributing minutes to the Chairman and Town Clerk.

Barry Kidder provided an update on the privacy hedge. The Planning Board was informed that the gravel near the new salt storage building is too close to the property line and there is not enough room to plant the privacy hedge. Gary Rice indicated the gravel would have to be moved before the trees are planted. To move forward with the privacy hedge, the neighboring property line on the east side must be delineated, the stump must be removed, the corner pins must be identified, and the Town Board must clarify how far from the property line the trees will be planted. At the upcoming October Board meeting, the decision should be made regarding which landscaping company will be hired and determine how the trees will be watered. The Town Board must also decide on the type of arbor vitae so the order can be placed in October/November for spring 2024 planting.

Jim Fodge asked if there were any updates on the Prattsburgh Wind Project. None of the planning board members had heard any recent updates other than drone work was being done. The Town Board will be contacted for the latest information on the project.

Training needs for Planning Board members were discussed. Some topics for training include County IDA presentation on PILOT programs and a legal presentation regarding wind/solar/battery storage.

The Board discussed areas of the Town of Howard that still have poor internet service. There are more rounds of funding for internet service in the state.

Public comment: Richard Stewart provided information about the section of the Public Officers Law that requires 24 hours advance notice of the record to be discussed at the meeting. It was noted that the Town Board decided not to include the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) form on the town website.

The next Planning board meeting will be held on September 20, 2023.

Shane Slayton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm, seconded by Barry Kidder.
Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye.