

TOWN OF HOWARD PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

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

Excused: Brad Laverty Absent: William Thew, Sean Turner, Josh Furgeson

Guests: Marcia Patrick, Richard Stewart

Barry Kidder called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Andrew Burdin made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2023 Planning Board Meeting as written. Seconded by Shane Slayton. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye. Because William Thew was not present, the minutes he recorded at the September meeting were not presented to the board for approval.

Barry Kidder provided an update on the tree planting for the privacy hedge around the salt storage shed. Everything is on hold until the town has the properties re-surveyed. It was noted that Gary Rice made a decision to leave the large stump on the property line in place.

The floor was opened for public comment. Marcia Patrick provided comments on the Carl Willis Memorial Park. She noted 75 children attended the last day of the summer recreation program, which is run by Rob and Dawn Patrick. To run the program effectively, the park needs running water and toilet facilities. Funding for a port-a-potty should not come out of the summer recreation budget. Marcia noted the roof on the pavilion is sagging, and some type of wind shelter, such as garage doors that pull down, should be installed so the crafts don't blow away. She mentioned there is a survey on the Town of Howard website about the library, and she recommended the Planning Board do a similar survey for the community park. She provided a list of families involved in the summer recreation program and suggested those families could receive a text message about the survey. Some other considerations are a tennis courts, walking trail, plants and landscaping to connect people to nature, and security cameras to prevent vandalism.

Discussion followed about the community park, including concerns about the safety of the swing set and the substrate under the swings. The Village of Avoca has a building at their park which can be used as a concession stand, and it is mostly used during events (chicken bbq, car shows, etc). There is no public water at the community park in Howard, and there might not be enough room for a well and septic. The picnic tables need repair. If a monument is placed at the park, funding could be available from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

To generate ideas from the public, the Planning Board could host a public comment meeting. Residents could be notified about the website through a mailing to every property owner on the assessment roll, and a survey could be included in the mailing and posted on the website. Planning Board members will draft survey questions for the next Planning Board meeting. A mailing might cost \$700.00 - \$800.00. Jim Fodge made a motion to ask the Town Board for approval of a mailing. The motion was seconded by Andrew Burdin. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye.

The next Planning board meeting will be held on November 15, 2023.

Barry Kidder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm, seconded by Shane Slayton. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye.

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