

TOWN OF HOWARD PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Planning board members present: William Thew, Andrew Burdin, Jim Fodge, Barry Kidder, Robin Phenes (remote), Shane Slayton, Sean Turner

Excused: Brad Laverty Absent: Josh Ferguson

Guests: Richard Stewart

William Thew called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the November 2023 Planning Board Meeting as written. Carried: Burdin, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye; Turner, aye.

A motion was made to recommend Richard Stewart as an alternate Planning Board member. Carried: Burdin, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye; Turner, aye.

The repowering of the Howard Wind Farm was discussed. Planning Board members were uncertain if any conditions in the original permit would require the wind company to get approval from the Planning Board for changes. It is believed that the new 94c regulations would require Planning Board notification, especially if different types of blades would be used to make the turbines taller. Contact information will be obtained for Greenbacker Capital to determine the status of the repowering project.

On January 29, 2024, a training session for Planning Board Members regarding New York State requirements for subdivisions will be held at 6:00 pm, followed by a public hearing on a subdivision at 7:00 pm. Brad Laverty will also be at the training to answer questions.

Improvements to the Carl Willis Memorial Park were discussed. William Thew will try to obtain a copy of the previous survey map from Steuben County. Running water, a good playground, improved pavilion, and picnic areas were suggested, but maintenance costs and maintenance responsibilities were also mentioned. In other towns, community groups sometimes raise funds independently of the town and do the maintenance work themselves. Families interested in having a park for their children might be able to organize a tax-exempt organization to maintain it.

Barry Kidder provided an update on the tree planting as a visual barrier to the recently constructed salt shed. The Town Board has not yet decided to move the pile of stone near the property line to provide adequate room for tree planting. The visual barrier was a condition of the permit for the salt shed, so trees must be planted to comply with the permit.

The next Planning board meeting will be held on February 21, 2024.

William Thew made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm, seconded by Shane Slayton. Carried: Burdin, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye; Turner, aye.