

TOWN OF HOWARD PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Planning Board members present: Andrew Burdin, Jim Fodge, Josh Ferguson, Barry Kidder, Robin Phenes, Sean Turner

Absent: Shane Slayton, William Thew Excused: Brad Laverty

Barry Kidder called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. A motion was made by Jim Fodge to accept the minutes of the June 2024 Planning Board Meeting as written, seconded by Andrew Burdin. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Ferguson, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Turner, aye.

Barry Kidder distributed the Community Park Survey to the families involved in the Summer Recreation Program. The survey will be put on the Town of Howard website in a few days and an August 31 deadline for responses will be included. An ad will also be placed in the Southern Tier Shopper. Copies of the survey will be available in the Town Hall and the Library and completed surveys can be dropped off at the Town Hall drop box.

Discussion about the salt storage building continued from the June meeting. The Planning Board determined that Brad Laverty did create a building permit for the project, but it is uncertain whether the building permit referenced the visual barrier. The next steps for the Planning Board are:

1. Obtain a copy of the building permit for the salt storage building
2. Obtain copies of all the boundary line agreements (from Barry Kidder)
3. Reach out to neighboring property owners and ask them to attend a Planning Board meeting to express their thoughts on the visual barrier
4. Ask the Town Attorney if the Town Board can be required to install the visual barrier and conduct well testing, which were conditions of the approval of the salt storage building by the Planning Board

Sean Turner made a motion to send a letter to the adjacent property owners to invite them to a Planning Board meeting, seconded by Josh Ferguson. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Ferguson, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Turner, aye.

Planning Board Training was discussed. Southern Tier Regional Planning is able to provide training at board meetings at a cost of \$1,200 - \$1,500 to the Town of Howard. The Town agreed to pay for the training, but we need to find out if the Planning Board can choose the topics. We will try to request a training session for the August 2024 meeting.

Barry Kidder provided a summary of the Town Board minutes from May 2024 regarding the Community Park. 4H removed the bleachers from the park and the Town Board asked the

Planning Board for recommendations for improvements. It was acknowledged that the picnic tables need to be painted, weeds should be removed from the playground, the sagging roof on the pavilion must be repaired or replaced. The June 2024 minutes from the Town Board meeting indicate Hunt Engineering is already working on a design for the Community Park.

The Planning Board has received 19 Community Park Surveys to date, and those respondents have indicated the rank of importance to be: 1) running water, 2) restrooms, 3) pavilion improvements, 4) playground equipment, and 5) tennis courts.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation may have a grant to assist with 50-70% cost sharing for park improvements.

Barry Kidder recommended we have a community meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at the Fire Hall regarding the Community Park improvements. Sean Turner made a motion to schedule the meeting for the Community Park, seconded by Josh Ferguson. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Ferguson, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Turner, aye.

The next meeting of the Planning Board will be held on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

At 8:58 pm, Andrew Burdin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Fodge. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Ferguson, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Turner, aye.