

TOWN OF HOWARD PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, June 20, 2024

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

Guests: Richard Stewart

William Thew called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A motion was made by Shane Slayton to accept the minutes of the May 2024 Planning Board Meeting as written, seconded by Barry Kidder. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye; Turner, abstain.

Board members discussed the letter to residents regarding the Community Park survey. The letter would notify residents that the survey will be posted online. Some thought it would be beneficial to send specific mailings to some residents and have the majority of residents respond online. Paper copies of the survey would also be available for residents who do not have internet access. Shane Slayton made a motion to approve the letter, seconded by Andrew Burdin. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye; Turner, aye.

William Thew drafted a letter to the Town Board regarding the non-compliance of the Town Board with installation of the visual barrier of trees and the testing of wells within 300 feet of the salt shed. Previous meeting notes from the public hearing regarding the salt shed must be reviewed for details of the salt shed permit and the additional conditions. Sean Turner made a motion to approve the letter pending review of the minutes, seconded by Shane Slayton. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye; Turner, aye.

Members discussed the status of the local law changes that had previously been reviewed, and members were reminded that Brad Laverty wanted to look over the laws prior to submitting proposed changes to the Town Board. William Thew indicated he had not yet heard from Brad regarding his review of the local laws, therefore, the proposed modifications had not yet been forwarded to the Town Board.

Future meetings of the Planning Board were discussed due to the upcoming absence of the Chairman. A training session about New York's clean energy programs will be arranged for the July 18, 2024 meeting, but there will be no official meeting unless matters arise.

Sean Turner made a suggestion to include a question on the Community Park Survey to gauge the number of beneficiaries of the park project, such as, "How many people in your family will use the community park?"

Public Comment: Richard Stewart stated it is the responsibility of the Planning Board to represent everyone in the Town of Howard. Because it was a requirement of the salt shed permit for the Town Board to plant trees, the Planning Board has a responsibility to require the Town Board to do so.

Richard Stewart also reported that the number of turbine sites was cut from approximately 117 turbines down to 55 because landowners in Canisteo and one other town did not renew their leases with the wind company.

The next meeting of the Planning Board will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

At 7:34 pm, Shane Slayton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andrew Burdin. Carried: Burdin, aye; Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Slayton, aye; Thew, aye; Turner, aye.