

**TOWN OF BARRE  
PLANNING BOARD  
JANUARY 20, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 PM

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tom Keeler                      Wes Miller  
Jean Depatie                  Stephen Harling  
Kirk Mathes                    Jean Peglow  
Dr. George McKenna

**ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Kurt Dudley                    Eric Watson

Others present: Sean Pogue, Robert Stirk and Shellye Dale-Hall

In Mr. Dudley's absence, Dr. McKenna will be a voting member.

**I.        APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Keeler wanted to make the board aware of Mr. Wietler's notes before a motion was made. Mr. Mathes made a motion to accept the minutes of December 9<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Mr. Miller and carried (7-0).

**II.       OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Pogue wanted to discuss a battery storage policy. The board thought it should be a stand-alone policy as it could be for solar, wind, etc. Dr. Pogue had sent the NYSERTA Battery Storage Guidebook to the members by email. The Town of Ridgeway is in the process of approving a Battery Storage Policy. Mrs. Preston will email that out to the members. It was decided to meet on February 5<sup>th</sup> to start the process of developing our own policy. The members were asked to review NYSERDA's and Ridgeway's and be prepared to discuss it. We should have Mr. Mark look at the final draft.

In regards to the Solar Policy and Mrs. Dale-Hall's concerns:

- Town board sets the fees
- Should use a similar format as the wind
- Who sees the applications first – Town Board or Planning Board?
- Should we be specific or a little vague?
- Should we meet with Mrs. Dale-Hall and the board to go over her concerns and get something in place for possible changes
- We should encourage PILOT's on commercial Solar projects.

At this time, Mrs. Dale-Hall has heard nothing from Mr. Pisitelli.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

The board received an invitation to attend Clear Skies Above Barre's meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

An application regarding the Thorpe Road Met Tower to extend the length of time allowed was received. In reviewing the application that was emailed after it was received:

- Dr. Pogue stated that the application fee has been received.
- A copy of the bond renewal has also been received. However as long as the met tower is working, it won't be decommissioned.
- We have been getting reports at the 20-meter height.
- The Town Board has set a public hearing for January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Dale-Hall wanted to make the board aware of a possible application that may come in for a Special Use Permit for an auto repair shop on a property on Rt. 31A. It is in the Agriculture/Residential District currently. The property has a house, barn, and the past business on it. The current use is/was possibly illegal before. She cannot see that there were ever any permits in the past. She has not heard back from the resident at this time. Our comprehensive plan does not change the General Business District to go that far which they are just beyond that. Mr. Keeler will reach out to the possible applicant as he knows them.

Dr. Pogue, Mr. Keeler or Mr. Miller was not able to go to the IDA meeting on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Keeler will see if he can get meeting minutes.

Mr. Keeler excused himself from discussing the Eagle Harbor Sand & Gravel future application. Dr. Pogue stated that Town Board has declared the DEC as lead agency for the SEQR process. Some concerns were discussed with a water problem on Maple Street and they don't clean of the road.

Dr. Pogue was notified today about a Solar farm on Townline Road in both the Town of Shelby and our town. Dr. Pogue has contacted Mr. Mark and they will meet with the developers on Friday.

### **VI. COMMUNICATION**

#### **ORLEANS COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

- Town of Shelby's site plan review and special use permit to construct a meteorological tower was withdrawn.
- Appointments to the County Planning Board were approved by the County Legislature.
- The 2020 meeting calendar was approved.
- Evaluated the recent land use training in Batavia.

- NYSERDA had a good presentation of battery storage facilities and should be invited to future training events
- Regulating short-term vacation rental operations was also suggested.
- Orleans county was awarded funds to ensure maximum participation in the 2020 U.S. Census
- The upcoming meeting has one referral so far from the Town of Murray on zoning text and zoning map establishing a Senior Housing District.

## **VII. ADJORNMENT**

Mrs. Peglow made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm; seconded by Dr. McKenna and carried (7-0).

---

Lee A. Preston, Clerk