

Town of Columbia
Regular Planning Board Meeting

March 15, 2023

The Town of Columbia Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting on March 15, 2023 at the Town Building.

Members Present: R. Bayzon, R. Fagan, P. Kidder; D. Rubin; B. Warner-Davis

Absent: J. Hotaling, Alternate

Others Present: Sandy Devendorf

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Bayzon.

Planning Board minutes Regular Meeting held February 15, 2023 were approved as presented.

Chairman's Report: Distributions

Ed Reed's presentation to the Association of Towns NY

Local Law #1 of 2012 Town of Litchfield Wind Energy Facilities Local

Dan Sullivan letter to Freeman's Journal

Communications and Reports:

1. Draft minutes of the Town Board's March 9 meeting were routed. Of note, the Town's proposed Moratorium Law on Solar Development was sent to the Herkimer County Planning Board for review and comment. A Public Hearing on the proposed law will be reopened after the County review. Review from the County has not yet been received.
2. R. Bayzon reported an inquiry made by Attorney Scott Olson of Young and Summers regarding our town laws.
3. D. Rubin shared Town of Glen white paper

Old Business:

1. EDF Columbia Solar Project: Nothing new to report.
2. Town-wide Solar Proposal Survey: As of March 9, 2023 received 174 surveys , 20% of 770
3. To note: Nate Seamon and Dan Sullivan's attendance at a meeting of the Otsego County Board of Representatives on March 1, urging them to oppose the Governor's budget proposal which

removes a local municipality's right to assess taxes for large-scale solar projects. Nate spoke to them about the erosion of the principle of home rule.

4. Posting of Planning Board minutes on the Columbia town website. P. Kidder submitted February Planning Board minutes to the Town web master.

New Business:

1. Town of Columbia Comprehensive Plan:
 - Information to be obtained if possible on Amish community such as population percentage and mode of travel
2. Donna Rubin shared information and problems towns are having with STR (short term rentals) even when there are laws regulating them.
3. Observations of Town of Middlefield's "The Solar Energy System"

Board and Public Discussion:

Chairman Bayzon adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting: April 19, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Kidder
Provisional Secretary

Copy: Town Clerk, Planning Board Members and alternate, ZBA Chairman, Codes Enforcement Officer, Town Webmaster