

Town of Columbia
Regular Planning Board Meeting

November 15, 2023

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

Members Present: R. Bayzon, D. Rubin, D. Kidder, R. Fagan, B. Warner-Davis,
alternate J. Hotaling

Others present: S. Dievendorf,

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Bayzon.

Planning Board Regular Meeting minutes, October 18, 2023, were approved as presented.

Chairman's Report:

1. No report from Ray Donley, Town of Columbia Zoning Codes
2. Chairman Bayzon distributed materials received at the Floodplain Mitigation Training: Floodplain Management Requirements for RVs, Floodplain Management Guidelines for Solar Array and Wind Farm Projects, and Common Questions and Answers about Flood Insurance in New York. Chairman Bayzon was advised at the training that the Planning Board needs to be aware of the floodplain areas in our town to inform any proposed actions that come before the Planning Board. This responsibility is also held by the Codes Officer.
3. Chairman Bayzon routed voter registration and district identification numbers for Herkimer County. Registered voters for the Town of Columbia: District 1 -1007 voters and District 2 -161 voters.

Communications and Reports:

1. Town Board's draft minutes for November 9, 2023 not received.
2. The following articles were presented:
 - Rome Daily Sentinel, 11/10/23: Herkimer Hazard Plan Available for Review. It can be found online at Explore the Plan- Herkimer County Hazard Mitigation Plan at www.herkimercountynyhmp.com
 - Freeman's Journal 11/15/2023: "Can NY Combat Climate Change without Destroying Communities"

- Freemans Journal: Coalition Calls for Rethinking of NY Energy Plan, Stakeholders Comments: Rural Communities and Groups
- West Winfield Star, 11/18/23: Large Scale Solar Hearing in Litchfield, Hacadam Hill Solar Project

Old Business:

1. Columbia Solar- nothing to report
2. Town of Columbia Solar Working Group- D. Kidder reported that the group is moving ahead with revisions and additions to the current Town of Columbia Solar Law.
3. Smart board/computer is in place in the town building. Usage criteria and instruction to be determined. R. Fagan noted that emails for Planning Board and other stakeholders need to be established to ensure security for users.

Town of Columbia Comprehensive Plan:

Next meeting will look at the introduction and changes to be made.

New Business:

A request by the Planning Board will be sent to the Town of Columbia Town Clerk and the Town Board seeking to advertise the two Planning Board positions to be filled in 2024. Positions are available due to an expiring term and an anticipated resignation of a member elected to Town Board.

Board and Public Discussion: S. Dievendorf reported on various instances where electric batteries failed, causing accidents.

Chairman Bayzon adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Next meeting: December 20, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Kidder
Secretary

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