

Town of Columbia
Regular Planning Board Meeting

May 17, 2023

The Town of Columbia Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting on May 17, 2023 at the Town Building.

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

Others Present: John Sweetman, Sandy Dievendorf

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Bayzon.

Planning Board minutes Regular Meeting held April 19, 2023 were approved as presented.

Chairman's Report:

1. Reminder of training opportunity for May 25, 2023 at HCCC by Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program. Topic - GML 239 Referral Process
2. Request made requiring a search of a 1988 decision by Planning Board. Located in files.

Communications and Reports:

- Draft minutes of the Town Board's May 11, 2023 meeting were routed.
- D. Rubin shared the following:
 1. Change of Deadline for submission to Evening Telegram
 2. Lake Placid STR- Host must live on property. Property values have risen 18%.
 3. Freeman's Journal article, "Not in My Backyard"
 4. Training by NY Planning Federation: June 6, 2023, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Learn at Lunch: Accessory Dwelling In Response to Changing Housing Needs
 5. Save A Date: NY Planning Federation October 5, 2023, No topic announced
 6. Evening Telegram May 12, 2023 posting: Utica Chenango and Susquehanna Valley, LLC. Railroad to extend track 2500 feet
- D. Kidder shared Adirondack Explorer article: Can a Solar Project Save a Dairy Farm
- Report from Ray Donley: Report of action for 2021 and 2022

Old Business:

EDF Presentation, May 9, at Francesca's Banquets was attended by D. Kidder, R. Bayzon, and D. Rubin. Discussion noted the presentation was well orchestrated with no significant new information. R. Bayzon noted that EDF representative reported the Town of Columbia

Planning Board had been contacted at one point, but no one has communicated directly with the Planning Board.

New Business:

1. Town of Columbia Comprehensive Plan:
 - B. Warner-Davis- has been gathering data for communications section
 - R. Bayzon- will contact G. Livermore, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Herkimer County in regards to reinforcing language to utilize for description of rural and agriculture nature of our town in the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Richard Reichert, GIS Coordinator, at Oneida Herkimer Counties Comprehensive Planning Program has provided an estimate for a variety of maps that might be used in the town's comprehensive plan. R. Bayzon will be future contact.
3. Need to emphasize the long held goals of maintaining the rural character of the Town of Columbia considering the movement towards the development of large scale renewable energy efforts.
4. R. Fagan to be a liaison to the Town Board for promulgation of the results of the town survey.

Board and Public Discussion:

j. Sweetman: Need to have a debate on pros and cons of the solar project, to show the opposing side from EDF's presentation.

S. Dievendorf: Need to ask questions about farm lands being effected by the EDF's proposed Columbia and Solar Storage Project

Chairman Bayzon adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting: June 21, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Kidder
Secretary

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