

Town of Columbia
Regular Planning Board Meeting

February 21, 2024

The Town of Columbia Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting on February 21, 2024 at the Town Building.

Members Present: R. Bayzon; D. Kidder; D. Rubin; B. Warner-Davis; R. Seamon; S. Dievendorf, alternate
Absent: None Others Present: None

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Chairman R. Bayzon

Minutes of the Planning Board regular meeting and the annual organizational meeting both held January 17, 2023 were approved as presented.

Chairman's Report:

1. Chairman Bayzon welcomed new board member, R. Seamon and alternate member, Sandra Dievendorf, to the Town of Columbia Planning Board. Both R. Seamon and S. Dievendorf will serve one year terms.
2. R. Bayzon reported the need to maintain records of the Town of Columbia Planning Board as these records/ minutes are needed to verify actions taken previously by the Planning Board. Chairman Bayzon has needed to access the records for previous determinations by the Planning Board.
3. Chairman Bayzon and D. Rubin discussed the right of an individual to cross private property to visit a cemetery where relatives are buried. By law this is allowed.

Communications and Reports:

1. Minutes of the Town Board's February 8, 2024 meeting were not available for review as not posted on town's website.
2. D. Rubin reported on the following articles:
 - Evening Telegram, January 29, 2024: Town of Newport advertisement for Comprehensive Plan writer
 - Adirondack Explorer, February 7, 2024: Battery Storage Safety Plan up for Comment Raquette Lake
 - Freeman's Journal, February 7, 2024: Solar Energy Informational Meeting Town of Otsego
 - Pennysaver, January 18, 2024: Right to Farm Law public hearing in town of Roseboom
 - Freeman's Journal, February 1, 2024: Panel Speaks on Wind Farm Proposal Flaws. R. Seamon attended the session and commented on how informative the presenters were. The panel meeting

was in response to proposed wind farm by Terra-Gen in the towns of Danube, German Flats, Stark, Warren, Little Falls and Columbia.

3. S. Dievendorf provided a letter mailed from Blue Wave, a solar energy company, seeking to lease land in the township. She also noted that Terra-Gen had approached a local resident seeking to discuss property land use.

Old Business:

1. EDF Columbia Solar Project: No report
2. Solar Working Group: Using the town's smart board the Planning Board was able to review the current rewrite draft of the Town of Columbia's Solar Law by the Town's Solar Working Group. D. Kidder reported that next steps will be to deliver the draft to Ben Wisniewski (our Town attorney of record related to renewable energy).
3. The escrow account monies, established in 2015 and to be used only for the recertification by the Planning Board of the Verizon cell tower on Route 28, have been transferred by Town of Columbia to an interest bearing account, NY Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System. The decision was made by the Town of Columbia at the February 8, 2024 meeting.

Town of Columbia Comprehensive Plan:

1. Headed by D. Rubin, the Planning Board discussed considerations around a map for historical items to be offered in the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Maps were briefly viewed using the smart board. Further review will be conducted at the next meeting.

New Business:

1. Training attendances submissions: D. Rubin for one hour to SEQRA Basics Learn at Lunch and D. Kidder for one hour Overview of New York State Wetland Regulatory Changes.

Board and Public Discussion: none

Chairman Bayzon adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Next meeting: March 20, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Kidder
Secretary

Copy: Town Board, Town Clerk, Planning Board Members and alternate, Town website