

Town of Columbia
Regular Planning Board Meeting

June 21, 2023

The Town of Columbia Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting on June 21, 2023 at the Town Building.

Members Present: R. Bayzon, D. Kidder; D. Rubin, R. Fagan

Others Present: John Sweetman, Sandy Dievendorf, Justin Davis

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Bayzon.

Planning Board Regular Meeting minutes, held May 17, 2023, were approved as presented.

Required action taken: Lot extension at tax map parcel 132.1-1-21, Town of Columbia by Justin Davis, 1495 Jordanville Road, Richfield Springs, NY. By unanimous decision, the Planning Board resolved that the proposed extension of 0.792 acres is a continuation of the parcel and not a subdivision. Map signed by Planning Board Chair R. Bayzon.

Chairman's Report:

1. No report from Ray Donley, Town of Columbia Zoning Codes
2. Reported attendance by D. Kidder, D. Rubin and R. Bayzon at May 25, 2023 two hour training at HCCC by Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program. Topic - GML 239 Referral Process
3. R. Bayzon made contact with Garret Livermore, Executive Director at Cornell Cooperative Extension with regard to language to be used in the Town's Comprehensive Plan for the protection of farmland.
4. M. Buddle had received queries regarding Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan from Jessica Stokes, Tetra Tech. Referred to Town Supervisor and Town Clerk. Of note: Flood Prevention Law for the town is dated 02-96.

Communications and Reports:

- Draft minutes of the Town Board's June 8, 2023 meeting were routed.
- D. Rubin shared the following:
 1. Questions and Answers not addressed by EDF at the May 9 Open House are now available at the EDF's website, columbiasolarproject.com
 2. Training by NY Planning Federation: July 12, 2023, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Learn at Lunch: Reading and Interpreting Site Plans
 3. Article in Observer Dispatch, June 18, Gray Skies, Solar Business Happening in Upstate NY
- D. Kidder reported on a meeting held by EDF on June 16, 2023 at the Matteson Hotel. Discussion revolved around the viability of beef grazing around solar panel arrays and agrivoltaics. Several audience members raised concerns. EDF will need to establish Vegetation Management Rates for the Columbia Solar Project.

Old Business: none

New Business:

1. Town of Columbia Comprehensive Plan:
 - D. Rubin: A need to update historical map with more entries.
 - R. Bayzon- need to update agriculture statistics thru contact with G. Livermore

Board and Public Discussion:

S. Dievendorf provided newsletter, Legislative Report from the NYS Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation and noted the change to DEC's wetland oversight that included phasing in decreased minimum regulated acreage from 12 acres to 7.4 acres.

Chairman Bayzon adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting: July 19, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Kidder
Secretary

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