

Town of Columbia  
Regular Planning Board Meeting

January 17, 2024

The Town of Columbia Planning Board held its regular monthly meeting on January 17, 2024 at the Town Building.

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

Absent: None

Others Present: R. Seamon, S. Dievendorf

Meeting called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Chairman R. Bayzon following the Board's 7:00pm Annual Meeting.

Planning Board regular meeting minutes of December 20, 2023 were approved as presented.

Chairman's Report:

1. Chairman Bayzon routed contact information for updates/corrections.
2. The town clerk is the official clerk for the Planning Board. Chairman Bayzon reviewed that any action that needs to be addressed by the Planning Board, requires a 7 day notice to be given to the Planning Board Chairman and the Town Clerk.
3. At the time of the building of the cell tower in the town (2015), an escrow account was established to be used only for the recertification by the Planning Board of the cell tower. Original amount was \$7,500.00 and was to be used solely by the Planning Board for recertification purposes. Recertification is done every five years. The Planning Board did complete a recertification in August 2020 and no monies were billed to the escrow account at that time. Currently the escrow account holds approximately \$5,000.00. The Planning Board is unaware of any use of the funds and is unable to account for the discrepancy. The Planning Board will ask to be appraised of these monies yearly. Any monies used from this fund must be approved by the Planning Board.
4. Information for training opportunities were routed. Secretary Kidder is the keeper of record for the members attendance at the mandatory 4 hour trainings per year. Members are asked to present verification attended to Secretary Kidder.

Communications and Reports:

1. Minutes of the Town Board's January 11, 2024 Organizational Meeting and Regular Meeting were not presented. D. Kidder attended and reported. The town clerk will have hours at the town barn

starting the first of February on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons. The West Winfield Star is the official newspaper for the Town.

2. D. Rubin reported on two Observer Dispatch articles: “Upstate bearing the burden of dirty down state”( 1/14/24) and “Green projects often blocked at local level” (1/16/24).
3. From Richard Reichert, GIS coordinator, Herkimer Oneida County Comprehensive Planning Program: 15 maps sent in a zip file to Chairman Bayzon. Members would like to be able to view these maps as a group for accuracy and suggested smart board use. Chairman Bayzon will ascertain what is allowed for distribution of the maps to other town officials, town’s website and interested parties.

#### Old Business:

1. EDF Columbia Solar Project: No report
2. Solar Working Group: no report as no current meetings

#### Town of Columbia Comprehensive Plan:

1. D. Kidder and D. Rubin both presented language to be used in the introduction section.
2. Next meeting: review sections titled Purpose and Legal Background.

#### New Business:

1. As written in the The Town of Columbia Planning Board By-Laws, Section F, Recommendation to the Town Board: The Planning Board may recommend persons to the Town Board for consideration for appointment to a vacancy on the Planning Board. If recommendations are made on behalf of the Planning Board, they shall be made only after an affirmative vote thereon. Therefore, the Town of Columbia affirms by vote the following recommendations :
  - Rebecca Seamon as board member for one year. This will be to fill a vacancy of a member’s term expiring in 2025.
  - Sandra Dievendorf for the one year appointment for an alternate member.

#### Board and Public Discussion: none

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

Next meeting: February 21, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Kidder  
Secretary

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