



MINUTES

Town of Binghamton Planning Board

Monday January 11, 2021 | 6:30pm

In attendance: Bill McGowan – Planning Board | Christopher Streno – Planning Board
Michael Donahue – Town Board Liaison

Attending via Zoom: Dave West – Planning Board | Ray Mastin – Planning Board
Kathy Kiekel – Planning Board | Alan Pope – Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm and attendance was taken. Two Planning Board Members were present in the Board Room (McGowan/Streno) along with Town Board Liaison Donahue. Planning Board Members West, Mastin, Kiekel attended remotely via Zoom as did Attorney Alan Pope.

Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals were also present both in person and via Zoom.

Attorney Pope opened the joint meeting with a Legal Corner regarding 'Refusing Site Plans Due to Code Violations'. The Boards were educated regarding the limitations and improper practice of denying Site Plans based upon previous Code Violations of the applicant whether they involve the site in question or not. Town Law Sections 274(2)a, 274(3) and 274(4) were referenced and it was pointed out by Attorney Pope that there is no mention of previous Code Violations in those sections of law.

He also commented on a new 239 Form and guidelines coming out of Broome County and asked that the Board obtain that information from Jennifer Fancher at his office.

After the Legal Corner, the members of the ZBA exited due to having no cases pending and the Planning Board remained for their regular meeting.

The meeting Minutes from December 14, 2020 were recognized and it was noted that they had been previously approved by the Board via email and already posted on the Town website

Chairperson Streno reported that the Advisory Opinion from the Planning Board to the Town Board regarding the new Town of Binghamton 240.57.2 Solar Energy Systems Law was delivered via memo in December and confirmed that it contained the two revisions suggested by the Planning Board at the December meeting.



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Streno communicated with Michael Catalleto from Scientel Solutions prior to the meeting and was informed that their project at the Webb Road tower has been delayed by weather conditions and the Holidays. Catalleto reported that an engineer will be completing the mapping of the property today (January 11) and that they will expedite the mapping report, hoping to have it completed by January 14. There was some discussion on whether or not this involves a physical on-site inspection of the tower as previously requested by the Board and it was agreed by all that Scientel would be reminded of that request.

Newly elected Town Board Member Michael Donohue was recognized and welcomed as the Planning Board's new Town Board Liaison.

The Board was informed of the town's membership with the New York Planning federation (NYPF) and the opportunities that Members can access from them. Some members were already registered. The information related was as follows;

- TOB pays for a membership and as a result all Members can benefit.
- The NYPF offers two webinars per month on Planning and Zoning.
- A schedule can be found on their website.
- Members receive notice and registration information by email.
- All of the webinars are recorded and put in their training library.
- Past sessions are on the website.
- Members can email nypf@nypf.org to obtain a link to watch whatever program they are interested in.
- They publish an E-news 6 times per year which goes out to members on their email list.
- A printed newsletter is sent out three times per year. These copies go to Town Hall for distribution.
- They have a publications library on their website.
- Members may call their office for technical assistance on a matter before their Board.
- They have been upgrading their website and within months will have an online resource library and discussion board.

The training status of Members was discussed. There was some discussion regarding whether or not the minimum training requirements were waived in 2020 due to COVID



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restrictions however after some discussion the consensus was that the Board will proceed as if there was not a waiver on the minimum requirements.

Members were advised that they would soon be receiving an email containing a web link to help them satisfy the mandatory New York State Harassment Prevention Training and were requested to forward their training certificates to Chairperson Streno upon completion.

The next regular meeting of the Planning Board is scheduled for April 12, 2021.

There was no further discussion by the Members, Attorney, Town Board Liaison or members of the public and the meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Streno -Planning Board Chairperson