

**TOWN OF ARIETTA PLANNING BOARD**  
**Piseco, NY 12139**

Meeting Dated: Tuesday June 13, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.  
Piseco School

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members present:**

Sheila Crouse

Eric Greiner

Mary Kiewicz

Ken Kull (by phone)

Bob Thomson

Zoning Officer Mel LaScola

Secretary Marie Buanno    Others present: Fred Knapp, Chris Rhodes, Sarah Rudes, John Boyer, Mike Hughes, Doug Stobo

Bob Thomson made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Greiner. The vote in favor was 3 – 0. Sheila Crouse did not vote as she arrived later in the meeting. Ken Kull could not vote as he was not physically present.

Mary noted she has received an updated Town of Arietta book from Real Property Tax Director Barry Baker showing the different zones within the town and a color coded map. Chris Rhodes authorized Mary to get copies made for the Planning Board members.

Mary noted that she does not have any more information to share on the plans for the Dorrs to build a hunting camp on Powley Road. Once we have more information we will have to give the APA our collective thoughts on the project. Mel noted it is close to the border on Powley Road and contains wetlands and is near state land so that will figure into the plans. Eric noted that if they own it and Mel and the APA are satisfied with the plans, the Planning Board should allow it. Attached to these minutes is the 3 page APA Request for Consultation with the Notice of Incomplete Permit Application.

Mary noted the Zoning Book changes were approved by the Town Board. Chris Rhodes noted it is currently at the Dept. of State for approval. The Town is just waiting for the time frame for comment or concern from them to elapse. If the required time elapses the change is considered approved.

Many people attended for the purpose of addressing the Town law about signage. Chris Rhodes noted he was approached about a realtor who had two signs on a parcel. Only one sign is allowed per Zoning Code 6.020 a 4. The Town Board has discussed it after numerous situations have been brought to their attention and they feel it may be time to amend that law or add to it or not change it and figure how Mel can go forward enforcing it. Realtors would like the option of having more signs allowed. Many others in attendance (Fred Knapp, Sarah Rudes, Mike Hughes and Doug Stobo) had similar grievances about the law. Some pointed out signs that were still up even though the business had closed or some people or businesses had more than one or two signs up. It was noted that NYS signs do not count in the equation as NYS can put signs up anywhere. Some referred to garage sale signs, realtors' signs and political signs. If more than one realtors sign is displayed, the Zoning Officer removes them without notification as the Town law states one realtors' sign per parcel. It was suggested that the person/business who had put the sign up be notified if it is not in compliance and will be taken down. A lot of leeway seems to be given for political signs as there is no state law concerning where, when or how long they can be up. Garage sale and event (party) signs also are given leeway provided they are taken down in a timely fashion. Mary read part of the code 6.020 a 4. As Chairwoman and one of the persons who worked tirelessly on modifying the Zoning book, she was not in favor of changing the law for the reasons given. Hearings had been held prior to the book being adopted by the Town Board (at that time) and objections were raised by realtors but the Town Board adopted it anyway. Both she and Zoning Officer Mel LaScola noted it is a long process to change Town law. Mel noted it is hard to enforce. Mary wanted to know if the Town Board really wants to pursue these changes as it is a long process that is probably not going to please everyone. If this is changed, is this a segway to change Town law each time someone disagrees with it? Everyone agreed that no matter what is decided for changes, not everyone will be satisfied. Most in attendance felt changes need to be made. Ken Kull said he has been in the sign business a long time. He thought it

possible to issue sign permits stating when the additional sign(s) can go up and when it needs to come down and possibly charge a fee for each additional sign that is put up and hold the permit holder responsible for the compliance of it. He thought maybe it is time to address the signs in categories as a law. i.e. – Realtors signs can do x,y,z, garage sale signs can do x,y,z, political signs can do x,y,z, etc. Businesses may be a different category altogether as they need the business and need to be found via multiple signs. The consensus was to form a committee to research ways to modify the existing Town law concerning signs. Ken Kull and Eric Greiner volunteered to do this. Mary suggested they contact neighboring towns to see what they do concerning signs. She and Mel would be willing to help if needed. They will bring ideas for changes back to the Planning Board in July.

John Boyer asked if there was any news on the emergency/cell tower installation. Chris Rhodes answered that the site chosen is on Route 8 across from South Shore Road. Studies have been done and a land use agreement with Spy Lake Corps. is done. The FAA has approved of it. An application for a balloon test has been submitted and everything will need to go through the APA for approval. Emergency service is the main concern but cell service is of importance as well.

Mary noted she received a notification from the County Clerk that a map was filed concerning lands of Kenneth and Marion Parslow. The map did not contain the Planning Board stamp.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sheila Crouse. Seconded by Bob Thomson. All were in favor 4 – 0.

Our next meeting will be July 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Marie C. Buanno

There are 2 attachments to these minutes: 3 page APA letter regarding the Dorr project  
1 page County Clerk map filed notification