

TOWN OF ARIETTA PLANNING BOARD
Piseco, NY 12139

Meeting Dated: Tuesday September 12, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.
Piseco School

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Eric Greiner (by telephone)
Mary Kiewicz
Ken Kull
Bob Thomson
Zoning Officer Mel LaScola
Secretary Marie Buanno

Members absent:

Sheila Crouse

Others present: Jim Colton, Al Diedrich, John Boyer

Bob Thomson made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 11, 2023 meeting as written. 2nd by Ken Kull. The vote in favor was 3 – 0. Eric Greiner could not vote as he was not physically present at this meeting (by telephone).

Mary noted she received notifications from the County Clerk that a map was filed concerning lands of Mark L. Thorpe and Eva Marie Suntum and a map concerning the lands of Mia Bouyea. Neither map contained the Planning Board stamp. Copies of those notices are filed with these minutes.

Mary handed out the updated Town of Arietta book Real Property Tax Director Barry Baker created showing the different zones within the town and a color coded map.

Mel LaScola noted he has a permit application and a check from the Irondequoit Inn to put in a new septic system at the house formerly occupied by Judy Damkoehler. He brought it to our attention as they had indicated they need to change the designation from Residential to Rental as they are planning on renting it out. It was thought that since it belongs to the Irondequoit Inn and it is a rental business, a zoning change probably won't be necessary. It was thought that Judy Damkoehler paid some semblance of rent. Mary and Mel will do some inquiring to find out more information and have it on our agenda as New Business for next months' meeting.

Mary asked for information from Eric Greiner and Ken Kull who volunteered to research sign laws and how, or if they see changes that could be made in our codes book concerning them.

Eric noted that they think the Inn on Piseco Lake (Irondequoit Inn) did a really nice job on their new sign. To that, Mary commented that technically, any commercial signs are supposed to come to the Planning Board for review and approval.

Eric said they were very surprised at how deeply restrictive the regulations are for signs. He noted it is a wonder there are any signs. They looked at other Towns and other ideas and would like to work on some kind of structure. They don't want to impede anyone from doing business. They were surprised how involved and complicated it can get. They did come up with a few small steps forward. Community or government signs can go up so they thought to help businesses, there could possibly be a sign on each end of Old Piseco Road stating what is located on the main road around the lake. They noted North Creek as having the same situation. There is a road going in and a road coming out. There is a small sign on Route 8 on state land indicating Piseco Lake is down that road and a sign for the Irondequoit Inn that they paid the state for on state land. Other than the sign on the corner in warmer months indicating what is going on, there are no direction signs to tell visitors what is down that road. It was noted the Town sign is on private property and is allowed by the property owners (John & Renee Rajca). It was not known if that property is zoned commercial or not as it used to be an ice cream stand. Nevertheless, the sign is not considered commercial as it is a civic/community sign.

The suggestion by Ken and Eric is to put a Welcome to Piseco sign with the boat launch and boat wash locations, the Community Hall, the museum, the firehouse and the two businesses, Piseco Lake Lodge and the Inn on Piseco Lake. A thought was to incorporate the corner sign (if it were a larger sign) and see if the PLA might be interested in contributing to it.

Anything else that might be considered is up for discussion. Since the state has their own signs up for the campsites, it did not seem necessary to include them. It was suggested that mileage to the popular hiking spots might be included as hikers stop to ask at Piseco Lake Lodge quite often.

Mary said while their suggestions seem good, she thought the purpose of them researching was to possibly change the zoning and codes book on signage. Eric noted the APA regulations are very strict. Ours are actually a little more lenient.

They said they recognize that the issue started with the multiple realtors' signs, the garage sale signs and the political signs. They are of the thinking that in peak seasons, the regulations could be a little more lenient. Multiple realtors' signs almost seem self-serving instead of trying to help sell a property. With the market the way it is, property sells itself. As far as garage sales go, the book does say if the signs are not taken down the person can be fined. This is a Town issue that probably can be revisited. This will stay on the agenda to be worked on until such time it is thought the zoning/codes book should be changed. At that time the Planning Board can approach the Town Board with recommendations.

Chris Rhodes noted that he has been working with the Work Force Housing Project through the Hamilton County IDA. He has seen what looks like a log cabin which is actually an RV on wheels which also has a removable tongue. It is 12 feet x 30 feet so it probably would need to have a special permit to transport. It is just under 13 feet 6 inches high. It is not meant for traveling but for set up as a camp by removing the tongue and putting skirting around it. He wonders if it would be acceptable to put in mobile home parks here. He thought he would like to encourage people to replace older trailer units with this. It meets all the criteria for a mobile home park size wise. Chris will e-mail the info to Mary to look at to be sure but it sounds like a possibility according to our mobile home park regulations.

Mel wanted to comment on the last Town Board meeting whereas Andrew Knapp (owner of Piseco Lake Lodge) noted that they were grandfathered into the old town zoning/codes (prior to 2015) regarding signage. Mel wanted to explain that the regulations were, in fact, the same back then as they are now. He supplied copies of the page from the book prior to 2015 showing that the code was the same so there was no grandfathering. Any change was noted in red as eliminated. A copy of that is attached to these minutes. Mel also handed out the APA Sign standards. Page 2, #5(c) speaks of banners as is currently displayed at Piseco Lake Lodge which are not permitted. A copy of that is also attached to these minutes. Fred Knapp mentioned a Supreme Court ruling whereas there would be no limit to the number of signs businesses were permitted to display. His son Andrew is working on a presentation that speaks of this.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Kiewicz. Seconded by Bob Thomson. All were in favor 3 – 0.

Our next meeting will be October 10, 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Marie C. Buanno

There are 2 attachments to these minutes: County Clerk notifications re: Thorpe/Suntum and Bouyea maps.