

TOWN OF ARIETTA PLANNING BOARD
Piseco, NY 12139

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

Meeting Minutes

Members present:

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

Members present:

Bob Thomson

Others present: Mike Cullen, James Colton, John Boyer

Sheila Crouse made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting as written. 2nd by Eric Greiner. The vote in favor was 3 – 0. Ken Kull could not vote as he was not physically present at this meeting (by telephone).

Mary stated there isn't much new business to discuss except what the Town Board has requested concerning the sign issue.

The Town Board has requested the Planning Board send a letter to the Town of Arietta businesses regarding the sign law. A copy of the draft Mary composed is attached to these minutes. Mary stated that the reason behind sending this out is that there have been complaints about the number of advertising banners and/or signs some businesses have had on their property. It has been discussed at the Town Board meetings and they have asked Mary and the Planning Board to address it. She has gotten Zoning Officer Mel LaScola's input. She read the draft out loud and asked for feedback. The law is the law and states one sign is allowed and states where the signs are permitted. There are also specific regulations for realtors which are, for the most part, now being adhered to. Eric feels we need to be consistent as one business was asked to take their sign down as their business closed, yet there is still a property owner that has a business sign up that is no longer in business. Mel said he will talk to Town Supervisor Chris Rhodes about how to handle it as the people who own it bought the property with the sign there from the previous owner. Mary noted there is a code for abandoned signs. Sheila asked if the possibility could exist that one sign could include several items the business offers. Mel said this is true as long as they abide by the codes square footage. Political signs and garage sale signs are a non issue as they are temporary signs. The sign on the corner is a community sign so it is permitted. Mel has been in touch with those businesses that were not in compliance and has had a positive response for the most part. Ken wondered if all property owners should be informed, not just businesses. It was thought for now the Planning Board should just address the businesses as that seems to be the sticking point. The purpose of the letter is mainly to let the businesses know what the Town law actually is. Theoretically, a business needs a permit to put up or change a sign. There were no other comments and the Planning Board agreed Mary should send the letter as written. She will have Heide Thomson put it on Town letterhead and will send it out.

Mel received an e-mail asking what the regulations are for a solar farm in the Town of Arietta. Mel said he would suggest that they first apply for a JIF through the APA as we have no codes regarding them in our book. A copy of the e-mail received is attached to these minutes. Mary noted that a solar farm would be considered a public utility. Every zone for public utilities requires a special permit.

Mel noted he received a schedule of upcoming training sessions from Joyce Page. Mary had also received it and sent it to Planning Board members. A copy is attached to these minutes. Members were encouraged to sign up or consider attending the Local Government Days which are held in March or April to get in the annual 4 hours of required training.

Eric asked if Mel had heard anything from the man who inquired about Airbnb properties in our area. Mel said he has inquired about several properties that are for sale in our area but none were suitable.

Mel has not heard anything from Mr. Drake-Deese about the subdivision he came to the Planning Board with at a previous Planning Board meeting.

Mike Cullen has been appointed to take Bob Thomsons seat on the Planning Board in January. Chris Rhodes will be appointing the replacement for Mary Kiewiczs seat soon.

Mary was thanked once again for her almost 20 years of service and was treated with cupcakes from Sheila.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Kiewicz. Seconded by Eric Greiner. All were in favor 3 – 0. Again, Ken Kull was via telephone and could not vote.

Our next meeting will be January 9, 2024.

Respectfully submitted, Marie C. Buanno

There are three attachments to these minutes: Draft letter to business owners regarding the sign law.
Copy of e-mail Mel LaScola received regarding solar farms.
Upcoming training session schedule (2 pages)