

TOWN OF ARIETTA PLANNING BOARD
Piseco, NY 12139

Meeting Dated: Tuesday August 13, 2024 – 5:00 P.M. Piseco School

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Jim Colton
Sheila Crouse
Mike Cullen
Eric Greiner
Ken Kull

Secretary Marie Buanno Zoning Officer Mel LaScola Others in attendance: John Boyer

Mike Cullen motioned for the meeting to be brought to order, 2nd by Ken Kull. The vote in favor was 4 – 0. Sheila Crouse arrived after minutes were approved.

Jim Colton made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 9, 2024 meeting as written. 2nd by Ken Kull. The vote in favor was 3 – 0. Mike Cullen did not vote as he was not present at the July meeting. Sheila Crouse arrived after minutes were approved.

Chairman Eric Greiner told the members the signed mylar was given to the Drake-Deeses and as far as he knows was filed.

He then asked Zoning Officer Mel LaScola if there was anything he would like to discuss. Mel said he believed the sign code issue should be discussed. He had on display 10 signs he had recently taken down that are against the current code. Most of them have been political and from realtors. The realtors are repeat offenders. Mel said he takes them down and they put them back up. Some were from roofing and tree service contractors. He noted that garage sale signs are rarely taken down after the sale is done.

Ken Kull said he had a question about how the definition on page 18 is worded. He read the definition of signs to the members. To him if it is less than three square feet as the definition states, why are we concerned with anything smaller? Smaller than that is not considered a sign at all.

Mel said the whole complying of sign regulations started when a certain business had many flag or banner signs out. (Too many according to code.) Mel feels that if Planning Board members or Town Board members have a problem with the business doing that then the Board member, not Mel should stop in to have a discussion with them about it.

The Town of Arietta is one of about five towns in Hamilton County that has been approved by the APA and follows APA guidelines. Eric Greiner wondered what advantage it serves to be one of the most restrictive towns. Mel said he felt the object was to limit the quantity of signs in general so our town would look better. Eric also wondered if there would be a down side to relaxing the code. It was understood that it takes a chunk of time to get the codes changed should we decide to relax any.

Mike Cullen thought if we are not going to enforce them then we may as well change them. He felt The Town of Arietta could stand to be a little more “business friendly”. Bandit signs should come down but if it is going to help a business, we should try to make it a little easier for them.

Sheila Crouse agreed although there are not that many businesses in Arietta. She felt the tree service signs just after the storm were probably helpful even if they were up a little longer. Ken said it seems like it’s just a common sense thing in a lot of cases but who should make that decision? Perhaps a person selling their property on Route 8 would be fine with just one realtors sign up but with all the dead end roads we have, common sense would say two signs would be logical. Realtors signs for an open house event would also be logical provided they were taken down afterward.

Jim Colton noted we need to be careful in that we treat all businesses the same. If we change the code it should be across the board for all businesses and not show privilege. The same code would apply for realtors, tree businesses or construction.

Chairman Greiner said this can only be discussed among Planning Board members at meeting time. He suggested everyone do some research and bring ideas and thoughts to the next meeting in September and plan on the meeting running longer so everyone could state their ideas of how to proceed. Everyone was encouraged to look at other towns codes. Look to wording to make it easier to run business here.

Zoning Board of Appeals request – Mel LaScola and Marie Buanno noted the ZBA is looking to make submitting a survey

map part of the process when applying for a variance. This needs to go through the Planning Board as the Planning Board is the body to get the ball rolling to change code. It will need to be added to the policy and added to the application. The ZBA would also like to redefine what constitutes a hardship when applying for a variance and include it on the application. There are two types of hardship, the property hardship (such as a boulder or septic) vs. a physical or personal hardship (i.e. need for a wheelchair ramp and in order to do it it would be too close to the road or setback). Chairman Greiner will contact ZBA Chairman Barry Baker.

It was noted a training session will be held in Old Forge on September 30, 2024 hosted by the Town of Webb for any who are interested or needing to get their training hours in. The information notice and form are attached to these minutes.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Cullen. Seconded by Sheila Crouse. All were in favor 5 – 0.

Our next meeting will be September 10, 2024.

Respectfully submitted, Marie C. Buanno

There is one attachment to these minutes: 2 page training session notice and sign up form.