

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

Meeting Dated: Tuesday September 10, 2024 – 5:00 P.M. Piseco School

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members present:**

Jim Colton  
Sheila Crouse  
Mike Cullen  
Eric Greiner  
Ken Kull

Secretary Marie Buanno    Zoning Officer Mel LaScola    Others in attendance: Gail Colton

Mike Cullen motioned for the meeting to be brought to order, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sheila Crouse. The vote in favor was 5 – 0.

Jim Colton made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2024 meeting as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Kull. The vote in favor was 5 – 0.

Chairman Eric Greiner asked Mel LaScola if he had any information on an upcoming subdivision concerning Hamilton Place. The parcel is over 50 acres and the project involves subdividing into three 3.5 acre parcels with the balance 40+ acres left as one large parcel. Mel said he would have to look up what zone it is in to determine if this is possible but has not had formal paperwork filed from the owner yet. Eric was informed that a JIF has been approved.

The Chairman said he would like everyone to bring their ideas on what to do about the sign laws to the next meeting as it has to be discussed during a designated advertised meeting time. He wanted everyone to have a voice and not everyone has had a chance to research it.

Mel thought the purpose of this meeting would be to discuss the sign issue. He had brought the many signs he had taken down that were in violation of our sign laws at the last meeting in hopes this could be discussed and resolved soon. Eric felt that some of our codes do not make sense especially concerning real estate signs and need to be modified.

Jim Colton found that Caroga Lake allows for two real estate signs per parcel to be posted with verbiage to back that up. Eric read our code which states one per parcel.

Ken Kull felt that the signage law pertaining to how far from the a State Road a sign could be should be changed as well. The sign for Pro Care sits way back off the highway. Mel said they were in violation of the law at first and had to move it back. That is why it is where it is. We will need to research to find out if that is our law or an APA law or a NYS law.

Mike Cullen said our town has significantly less signs around town than most neighboring towns. He supports changing the laws to make our codes more business friendly. He felt the property owner should have the say of how long a sign in their own yard is up.

Sheila Crouse agrees and wants us to find a common ground without making the town look trashy but support the people who live here and the local businesses. We have been talking too long about this. If we don't like it, let's get to work to change it.

Everyone was in agreement that even as we are working on it, Mel will have to endure taking these signs down until the Planning Board has gone through the proper steps and the law is actually changed.

Mel felt when changing the law the duration of the signs being up should be considered. Depending on what signs are posted where will depend on the time frame. The term "Temporary Signs" will need to be defined. Garage Sale signs will be discussed. Flags as signs will need to be discussed.

Ken Kull also added that Piseco Lake Lodge is allowed one free standing sign and wondered according to the code book where it should be located.

Once changes are agreed on, it will have to be presented to the Town Supervisor to bring to the Town Board. It will also have to go to the APA.

The Planning Board will bring any changes they feel need to be modified to the next meeting. Once Mel takes a look at proposals and changes are agreed on, they will be given to Town Supervisor Chris Rhodes.

A Special Meeting was considered between this meeting and next to discuss it. It will have to be advertised. Eric will be in touch with everyone to set one up, if needed.

Zoning Board of Appeals request – Eric approves of the ZBA requiring an applicant of a variance submitting a survey map as part of the process. He feels the ZBA needs to explain further the two reasons concerning the definition of a “hardship”. Chairman Greiner will contact ZBA Chairman Barry Baker or possibly invite him to a future meeting.

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

Our next regular meeting will be October 8, 2024. A special meeting may be called before then for the purpose of discussing the sign issue.

Respectfully submitted, Marie C. Buanno

There are no attachments to these minutes.

DRAFT