**TOWN OF AMITY PLANNING BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 11, 2021**

**APPROVED**

Due to COVID exposure, the meeting was rescheduled to be held via ZOOM, and called to order at 7:00PM.

Those present were: W. Skinner, G. Hanchett, B. Zlomek, D. Serra; those who went to the town hall, but could not access via ZOOM were J. Clouse, P. VanDyke; absent was J. Maynard.

***Approval of Minutes*** Motion to approve minutes of the 10-14-2021 meeti ng made by D. Serra; seconded by B. Zlomek; Vote: yes – 4; no – 0; motion carried.

***Town Board Report***  W. Skinner reported that the attorney Robert Strassel met with the town board to discuss moratorium on solar projects, and the NYS Cannibus “Opt Out” decisions, and the status of the village/town water line projects. The moratorium was proposed to protect landowners, and prevent unfair leasing practices by new solar companies. The NYS Cannibus “Opt Out” idea was promoted, since the municipality can always “opt in,” but once opted-in, cannot “opt out.” Without knowing the full extent of the NYS law being written, the “opt out” was recommended. A public hearing will be held on 11-29-2021 for this decision. W. Skinner also shared a summary of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Training on Risk Assessment, which included some references to Amity and Belmont (Plumbottom Creek, Saunders Pond/Dam, Amity Lake, and the Genesee River).

***New Business***

***Joint Comprehensive Plan for Village and Town Strategies Student Proposals*** The proposals prepared by the Alfred State College Urban Planning and Design class were presented to the public at GVCS on October 20, 2021 at the GVCS cafeteria. A copy of the proposals were submitted (via e-mailed digital files) by W. Skinner for planning board members to review. The plans focuses mainly on the village/business district and seemed to exclude priorities submitted by the town to be addressed. There will be a start-up of the joint planning boards again on 11-29-2021 to wrap up comments and the draft for the comprehensive plan.

***Old Business*** W. Skinner received permission to submit vouchers via email to the town bookkeeper.

***Other ??***

***Proactive planning***  Following up on the previous meeting’s suggestion to propose ideas to bring economic development to the community, a discussion ensued about what strengths and weaknesses should be addressed in Amity. A report – “27 of the Most Successful Small Town Business Ideas” -- was submitted for review by email. Also submitted for consideration was a “Community Heart & Soul” Overview options and opportunities. A discussion ensued about which direction to go towards development, and led to these questions:

* What type of community are we now, or hope to be—recreational, rural, destination, etc?
* What types of businesses would support that type of community – fishing supplies, outfitter, archery and/or shooting range, water sports, hunting, emerging cabin rentals?
* What can we do to develop these types of businesses – working with what is already in place until we acquire bigger investors to join in the effort?
* Would professional marketing and website development be effective?
* How much is left in 2021 budget to begin marketing efforts?
* How can we develop more of a sense of “community” that counteracts the effects of social media—monthly community events?

***Next Meeting -- December 16, 2021 @ 7PM***

***Adjournment*** Motion to adjourn by B. Zlomek, seconded by D. Serra; Vote: Yes – 4; No – 0; meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.