**TOWN OF AMITY PLANNING BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 14, 2022**

**APPROVED**

The meeting was held with options for in-person and ZOOM attendance, and called to order at 7:00PM.

Those present were: W. Skinner, G. Hanchett, B. Zlomek, D. Serra, J.Maynard; absent were J. Clouse and P. VanDyke.

***Pledge of Allegiance*** was led by W. Skinner

***Approval of Minutes*** Motion to approve minutes of the 12-16-2021 meeting made by G. Hanchett; second by D. Serra; Vote: yes – 4; no – 0; abstained – 1; motion carried.

***Town Board Report*** W. Skinner reported that the town board held a public meeting on the adoption of local law for Moratorium on Solar Development on 1-3-2022; Deb Bigelow from Concerned Citizens made comments about not wanting to see Class A farmland used for solar farms, and not wanting remnants of expired solar farms littering the landscape. Public hearing was closed at 6:20PM. At this organizational meeting, Resolutions 2022 -001 through 2022-009C were passed.

At the 1-10-2022 regular town board meeting, the Solar Law Moratorium was adopted; W. Skinner asked the town board if the law had to be approved by the Allegany County Planning Board before being adopted by the town and sent to NYS for comment. She also asked what would be the guidelines or structure for review by the town board for solar projects presented to them. That process of review will need to be structured. Andrew Ingalls (?) of Ingalls Planning & Design gave updates on the LWRP project list for Belmont/Amity, and asked if there was a priority list from the town. He also stated that for the entire Genesee River LWRP, the top priority was flood mitigation and environmental concerns. He also said the more agencies that can be called in to mitigate a problem area (DEC, DOT, DOS) (added by planning board – Army Corps of Engineers, Soil & Water, NRCS) the better chance of funding it would have. The Highway Superintendent reported that the CHIPS money came in for completed projects, and that a new sandbox for the truck was needed. There was discussion about set up of new IT / servers / computer systems for the town, for less than the proposed. J. Francisco reported that the reassessment of properties has been completed, and that the town will want to hold a couple of meetings to review the process with property owners before grievance day. He also presented his first draft of a letter to residents in the 5 water districts supplied by the village about the changes that are required by law for water distribution and upgrades. He will want to hold a public meeting for them to attend and explain the project, cost, and process.

***Old Business***

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

***Report on Irons Rd.***  The continual complaints on this property and access to it by emergency responders, utility companies, etc., need a joint solution among county departments, state and local law enforcement, and town board. The reassessment and reclassification of this property could provide a path to addressing situations.

***New Business***

***Website*** The town prefers not to use county contacts to do upgrade the website. They will look into upgrades after the new computers, servers, etc. are installed.

***Appointments*** The town had no further discussion about whether or not G. Hanchett had a conflict of interest serving on the planning board while serving as a county legislator. W. Skinner asked those members who would not be serving another term if they could recommend replacement board members.

***Development Strategies*** W. Skinner suggested that a meeting be convened of landowners on the SR 19 North area to get their feedback on what they would like to see for land use / development ideas for that area. She also asked what survey results (from the joint planning committee) might have been provided by those landowners. B. Zlomek will see if there was specific feedback by the landowners. In another situation in that area, a shared driveway between two business owners has raised concerns about what the DOT or the County Public Works needs to allow additional entrances/exits to and from parking lots on SR 19N. G. Hanchett will look into that. She will also check the status of internet access footprint with Armstrong and Spectrum in that area. Prospective list of landowners are Clines, Keesler, Edelweiss Farms, SPCA, Dawny Jean’s, Belmont Storage, East Wind. This is not all-inclusive and will continue to be updated.

***Other ??***

***Moratorium on Solar Development*** W. Skinner queried whether the proposed moratorium needed to be referred to the county planning board. She brought this to the attention of the town board at its last meeting, and left copies of the orange pamphlet from the county with the deputy town clerk.

***County Planning Board “super majority”*** It was reported to W. Skinner that the county planning board was setting up a “super majority” structure so that they could have the ability to override any local municipal planning board with less planning board members than the county planning board. The county planning board currently has 15 minutes. Town of Amity planning board member P. VanDyke who also serves on the county planning board was not available to comment.

***Legislator update*** Legislator Hanchett provided an update on the ACIDA board appointment process meeting held at the AC Committee of the Whole; W. Skinner will send the link to the recording of the meeting to our planning board; it was also reported that the AC Legislature approved a fund of $7.5 million for infrastructure investment at the “Crossroads” area.

***Update on joint comprehensive plan*** W. Skinner stated that the first draft of the comprehensive plan has been provided for review. There are some areas that need this planning board’s input. One common concern between both municipalities was being the county seat, and when does “home rule,” exist for county projects, which if it was any other entity, would have to receive approval from a zoning board or permitting process. The county has the “orange pamphlet” outlining a law the requires all municipal projects to be referred to the county planning board for review. Is the county required to be approved by local municipalities’ zoning and site plan review processes?

***Next Meeting -- February 17, 2022 @ 7PM***

***Adjournment*** Motion to adjourn by D. Serra, seconded by J. Maynard; Vote: Yes – 5; No – 0; meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.