

Berkshire Planning Board Meeting Notes

April 4, 2023- 6:30 pm

Members with term expirations:

Charles Ouellette- Chair	2026
Ken Ceurter- Vice Chair	2025
Nancy Lohmann- Secretary	2027
Sam Davison	2024
Mike Bobal	2023
Jim Lacey- Alternate	2023
open- Alternate	2023
TCPB- Benjamin David	2023

Meeting was called to order at the Town Hall at 6:35 pm.

- **Roll Call:** Bobal, Ceurter, Davison, Lacey, Lohmann, and Ouellette were present.
- **Secretary minutes** were provided and amended by email prior to the meeting. Ceurter made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Lacey. All Planning Board members present were in favor.
- **Privilege of the Floor-** Jim Simmons, Berkshire Fire Commissioner, informed the PB that the Fire Department has been awarded a \$29,000 grant that will be used for a new digital sign that will replace the current sign. In addition to informing the community regarding Fire Station communications, it can also be used by other local entities such as the Town Board, Library, BRC, Planning Board, and Community Association to help disseminate information.

Town Board Meeting: Ceurter attended the Town Board meeting and emailed a summary to PB member. Of interest to the Planning Board:

- Savannah Kromer was approved as an interim Town Board member.
- Abraham David was approved as County Planning Board Rep.
- The Local Solar Law will be submitted to the County Planning Board and should be included in their April meeting.
- The Town will write to the DOS inquiring about the status of our submitted Local Subdivision Law.
- The DCO has a situation with barking dogs. The town lawyer, Canizio, said that based upon our local law description, no further action needs to be taken by the Town.
- The Board discussed the idea of using "Community Service" in lieu of some court settlements.
- The Town Board discussed the idea about using the Town Hall as a Sheriff's substation and possible even EMS, but no decisions were acted upon by the Board.
- Ceurter discussed the PB's desire to get the pending solar law and subdivision settled. He reported that we are working on the Uniform Code Local Law, and will be discussing a "large gathering law".

County Planning Board Meeting: Abraham David was approved in March by the Town Board as the Berkshire Tioga County Planning Board representative.

- 239 Review: Owego Upstate Shredding requested a site plan review to add a new 20,800-foot chopper building to current recycling facility. It was approved.
- 239 Review: Owego Bowen-Judson requested approval of a Special Use Permit and Area Variance that would allow him to establish and operate a junkyard on his property at the corner of West Creek Road and Park Settlement Road in Owego. This variance is required because the property does not meet setback requirements. Permit was approved.
- 239 Review: Owego- Special Use Permit by Bella's Boutique. Applicant wants to relocate full-service dog training and care business from Richford to State Routed 434 across from Sweeney's Plaza. After mutually agreeing on the number of dogs that could be accommodated at one time, the permit was approved.

Unfinished Business:

- Status of Solar Law – Should be on County Planning Board's agenda in April.
- Status of Subdivision Law with DOS – Still not on DOS.
- The County PB position-Abraham David was approved and will fill this position.
- Uniform Code Draft- The Planning Board continued their review and editing of this draft. Ouellette will draft a standalone "Large Events Law" and it will be discussed during the May or June PB meetings. This Large Events Law will be presented to the Town Board in tandem with the Uniform Code Local Law.

New Business

- PB budget discussion-Ouellette will confirm that there is a 2023 Planning Board budget line on the Town budget and PB members should consider possible uses for the money.
- Other business- Ouellette will make recommendation that Town Board approve the installation of new digital sign that will be paid for with a \$29,000 grant that has been awarded to the Berkshire Fire Department.
- Ouellette will ask Abraham David if he is interested in filling the alternate planning board position that is currently empty due to passing of Nate Coveney.

Davison a motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm. It was seconded by Ceurter. All members present were in favor.

Next PB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 6:30 pm.