

Berkshire Planning Board Meeting Notes

January 2, 2024- 6:30 pm

Members with term expirations:

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

Meeting was called to order at the Community Hall at 6:35 p.m.

- Roll Call: Ceurter, Davison, Lacey, Lohmann, and Ouellette were present. Town Board member Stoughton was also present.
 - Secretary minutes: One correction was noted on the 2023 Organization meeting for December. Ceurter noted that the Town Board needed to officially approve the 2024 Fee Schedule during their Organizational meeting in January before it becomes official.
- Ceurter made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Lacey . All Planning Board members present were in favor.

Town Board Meeting: Ouellette attended the Town Board meetings in December and emailed a summary of the meeting to PB members.

- The Right-to Farm and Uniform Code laws have been reviewed by the Town lawyers and need a public hearing soon.
- An attorney will attend the January TB meeting to discuss the Solar Law.
- Supervisor Jordan requested another copy of the Subdivision Law which needs to be resubmitted to the Secretary of State.
- Stoughton noted that stipends have been signed and will be mailed to Planning Board members.
- Ouellette will request that the open permanent PB position be posted on Facebook and the Town email.
- Due to a \$16,800 increase, the Town continues to explore other EMS coverage for the town.
- The CEO has sent the owner of the prior gas station site a registered letter about broken windows needing to be boarded up, but received no response. The owner is also delinquent on the taxes.

County Planning Board Meeting: Ceurter reported the following:

- Request to rezone a property from Residential B to Agricultural on 5.1-acre property in Campville. Motion was approved with 6-yes/ 2-no vote.
- A Special Use Permit was requested by Upstate Shredding in the town of Owego. Special Use Permit was unanimously approved.
- Floodplain Review and Special Use Permit was requested for a Rage Cage business in an existing building at the site of the old Owego-Apalachin School District bus garage. Review and permit were disapproved by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business:

- Mike Bobal officially resigned so now a regular and an alternate position on the Berkshire Planning Board are open.
- County Planning Board position is still open.
- Status of:
 - Subdivision- Lohmann resent copy of final law to Supervisor.
 - Uniform Code and Right to Farm-approved by town lawyer
 - Solar will be reviewed by lawyers at the January Town Board meeting
- Special Events draft- Planning Board completed discussion of the Special Events law. An application and checklist were also reviewed and approved. Lohmann will make discussed edits and send the law to the PB members. Final discussion of law will occur at the next PB meeting before it is sent to the Town Board.

New Business:

- Ouellette will send messages to Hartwig and Fields to post Planning Board openings.
- Ceurter will attend the January Board meeting.
- Ceurter recommended not meeting for a month until the pending laws are complete but final decision will be shared by Ouellette.
- Davison will attend the Tioga County Planning Board meeting.
- Davison expressed his interest in helping to exploring a local, long-term solution to EMT/ambulance services for Berkshire.
- Upcoming meetings: TB workshop 1/15/24, TB meeting 1/17/24

Training Opportunities continue to be available at the Hancock Estabrook (MRB). They offer monthly online in-service opportunities for Planning Board members on the 4th Thursday of each month from 6-7:00pm. You must register ahead of time.

Davison made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. It was seconded by Lacey. All members present were in favor.