

Berkshire Planning Board Meeting Notes

July 7, 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
open-TCPB	2023

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

- Roll Call: Ceurter, Davison, Lacey, Lohmann, and Ouellette were present. Bobal was excused. John Stoughton was present representing the Town Board.
- 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.

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

- Due to County Legislature criteria, Abraham’s appointment of Berkshire representative to County Planning Board was rejected, therefore the position remains open.
- CEO Cheresnowski is researching legal aspects of a “trailer park” on Rt. 38.
- The Uniform Code Law is with the Town Board. There is no change on the status of the Solar Law. Ouellette will meet with Supervisor Jordan to plan public hearings on UCL and Solar local laws.
- Ouellette reported that the Planning Board is close to finishing the Right to Farm local law and will then begin working on Special Events/Operating Permit Law.
- The Town Board voted to pay Alternate Planning Board members who attend at least 7 meetings throughout the year a stipend equivalent to Regular Planning Board member going forward.
- Judge Olson reported that the increased patrols in Berkshire have generated a lot of business. She stated that although she currently cannot suspend a license if fines are not paid, as she could pre-covid, she can suspend a license for not showing up to court.
- The Town Board may discontinue regular workshops held on 2nd Tuesday of each month and only hold them as needed.

**County Planning Board Meeting:**

- 239 Review: Town of Owego, Site Plan Review, Applicant, Style Edit.is requesting site plan approval to transform the current showroom/office building into a warehouse for cosmetics. The motion to recommend approval with conditions was approved with a vote of 8 yes-0 no.
- Site Plan Review, Village of Newark Valley, Applicant requested site plan review to establish and operate a glamping camp facility on their currently vacant 4-acre property. The campground would contain 20 tent platform units, a bath/storage building, and a store. A motion to recommend approval with conditions was approved with a vote of 8 yes-0 no.

**Unfinished Business:**

- The additional information requested regarding the Solar Law Local Law was sent to the County Planning Board.
- An alternate position on the Berkshire Planning Board remains open.
- The status of the Subdivision Law with the DOS remains unrecognized.
- The Planning Board completed the Right to Farm Local Law at this meeting. Ceurter made a motion to accept the Right to Farm Local Law with final recommended edits. Lacey seconded the motion. All present were in favor of approving the motion. Lohmann will make final edits and send it to the Planning Board for their final reading. Lohmann will then send the approved copy to Ouellette who will then send it to the Town Board for discussion, public hearing, and approval.

**New Business:**

- Over the month of August, Ouellette will research and develop a preliminary draft of a local law on special events. There will not be a Planning Board meeting in August. The Planning Board members should make themselves familiar with the information Ouellette sends them on this subject and be ready to begin discussion of this draft at the September meeting.
- Training Opportunities continue to be available at the Hancock Estabrook (MRB). They offer monthly online in-service opportunities for planning board member on the 4th Thursday of each month from 6-7:00pm. You must register ahead of time.
- Ceurter reported sending Bobal and Jordan observations of needed website updates.

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Ceurter made a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm. It was seconded by Ouellette . All members present were in favor.

Next PB meeting is scheduled for September, Tuesday, 5, 2023, at 6:30 pm.