

TOWN OF CLAVERACK  
PLANNING BOARD  
Minutes of: March 4, 2019

Chairman Scott Cole called the March 4, 2019 meeting of the Town of Claverack Planning Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members in attendance were: Chairman Scott Cole, Virginia Ambrose, Alberta Cox, Stephen King, William Michael, Robert Vecchi, engineer; George Schmitt and secretary; Jodi Keyser

Absent with regret: attorney; Rob Fitzsimmons and Jock Winch

Board members reviewed the minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting. Town Board member Mary Ann Lee addressed the Board that after reading the minutes she is upset that the Board members felt that she was giving them misleading information regarding the tree removal along NYS Rte. 23-B. Mrs. Lee continued that she did not give misleading information to the Board. Mrs. Lee stated that she spoke to the NYS DOT regarding the tree removal and was told that an beetle was to blame. Mrs. Lee continued that she feels that Mr. Bevacqua was being mean spirited in his accusation of the information. Mrs. Lee stated that she did not mislead or give misleading information to the Board members. Mrs. Lee stated that she also spoke to the Cornell Cooperative Extension and was informed that this beetle is in the area and is very destructive to area trees. Mrs. Lee continued that members of the Cooperative Extension have offered to walk areas where this beetle is suspected and will assist homeowners with them. Mrs. Lee stated that this really bothers her and she would never mislead the public, Board members or anyone. Robert Vecchi addressed Mrs. Lee stating that he did not take the minutes or Mr. Bevacqua's comments that Mrs. Lee was misleading rather that she had received misleading information from the NYS DOT. Robert Vecchi stated that he in no way felt that Mrs. Lee was giving the Board members misleading information. Stephen King stated that he and Mr. Bevacqua reached out to a large number of professionals regarding the beetle and why these trees along NYS Rte. 23 were removed so quickly. Stephen King continued that he and Mr. Bevacqua never meant to make it seem like Mrs. Lee was giving the Board misleading information rather that she received misleading information and they had received more adequate information after their investigation. Virginia Ambrose stated that she read the minutes to reflect that Mrs. Lee was given misleading information not that she was misleading the Board or community at all. Mrs. Lee then stated that she was upset thinking that the Board or community thought that she was giving them bad information. Mrs. Lee continued that she spoke with NYS DOT to find out what happened and why the several trees were removed around the hamlet and was told that it was because of an invasive beetle and that the NYS DOT stated that they have a responsibility to maintain safety to the public by removing dead and dying trees. Mrs. Lee stated that she also contacted Adirondack Tree Service which gave her no other information but to call the NYS DOT who they are contracted by. Stephen King stated that he would love the Cornell Cooperative Extension to reach out to property owners in the area for the opportunity to inspect trees in the area for the beetles. MaryAnn Lee stated that property owners would need to contact them directly to make arrangements. Mrs. Lee thanked the Board members for understanding and that she was glad that they know she was not misleading them with her information.

Motion to approve the minutes of January 7, 2019 was made by Robert Vecchi with a second from Alberta Cox. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW APPLICATIONS FOR 3/4/19

**Kiplinger/Flammia Special Exception: Tax Map #(SBL)131 . – 1 – 82 Located at 2441 County Rte. 27. Special Exception for the installation of a ground mounted solar array.**

Lea Springstead was present for the application. Ms. Springstead informed the Board that her clients are seeking to install a 13-foot by 43-foot 559 square foot ground mounted solar array in the side yard of their home. Ms. Springstead informed the Board that the array will meet the required 30 foot setback and will be screened using forsythia bushes that will be planted after the array is mounted. Ms. Springstead continued that the array will consist of galvanized steel with a non-reflective coating. Chairman Cole asked if the array will be stationary or motorized directionally. Ms. Springstead stated that the array will be stationary. Stephen King asked if the utility shutoff AC disconnect will be at the house and it will need to be labeled on the maps. Ms. Springstead stated that the shutoff will be located in the house and will be labeled. Stephen King asked what type of forsythia will be planted. Ms. Springstead answered that the forsythia will be the type that grows 8 to 10 feet in height. Chairman Cole stated that the Site Plan shows some existing tree coverage. Ms. Springstead stated yes but most of these will be removed for the solar array. Stephen King asked out of curiosity why would the solar array be situated in this specific spot. Ms. Springstead stated that this spot is the preferred site of the homeowner and the front yard does not have enough area and would not look very nice. Robert Vecchi asked what the rectangular shaded area around the array is showing on the maps. Ms. Springstead stated that this is the clearance of the solar array. Robert Vecchi stated that it is confusing on the maps and appear to be like a cement slab but then he did see that it was marked as the space for the array. Robert Vecchi then stated that he feels that people traveling down Schoolhouse Rd. will be able to see a good part of the array. Ms. Springstead stated that when the forsythia is matured and with the existing vegetation that will be left the view will be very limited from Schoolhouse Rd. George Schmitt informed the Board that because this application is a Special Exception it needs to be reviewed by the County Planning Department and will require a motion at this meeting.

Motion to send the application to Columbia County Planning Department for review was made by Robert Vecchi with a second from Stephen King. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the application as complete and set public hearing for April 1, 2019 was made by William Michael with a second from Virginia Ambrose. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Stephen King asked the Town Board members in attendance, Mary Ann Lee and Stephen Hook if sexual harassment training would be held in the upcoming future and will it be done with the County or just within the Town of Claverack. Both Lee and Hook stated that the Town of Claverack will hold the training separate from the County but will be the same training. Board members will be required to attend even if they have attended a sexual harassment training at a different employer.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Virginia Ambrose with a second from Stephen King. All members were in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Keyser, Secretary

