

Town of Richford Planning Board

MINUTES – August 7, 2013

PRESENT – Emilie Stuhlmiller, John Schwartz, Charlie Davis, Victoria Nuzzo, Kim Stanford, Bill Stell

Meeting started at 7:10 pm. The July minutes were reviewed. Schwartz moved and Stanford seconded to accept the July minutes as written; unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Schwartz reported that the letter he wrote to the Town Board (concerning a meeting with Delta Engineering about the cost to prepare a road law for the Town) was read at the Town Board meeting in July. Davis indicated the Town Board was not in favor of spending any funds to hire expertise and instead felt the Planning Board could write this law on their own. However, they said the Planning Board could arrange such a meeting, and the actual costs to Richford would be estimated at that time based on the number of Towns participating. The \$7,000 - \$9,000 cost (if shared with other Towns) would equal the cost for an attorney to review a law drafted by the Planning Board. Stell moved that Schwartz arrange a meeting with Delta and adjacent Towns (Town Boards, Planning Boards, and interested residents) to jointly conduct a road protection agreement with Delta. Nuzzo seconded. Passed unanimously. Schwartz indicated this would require a few months to get all parties to the table.

Schwartz described a potential source of grant money to conduct a road assessment and to improve roads.

NEW BUSINESS:

Davis mentioned a call from a local resident concerning a land sale. She wanted to divide her parcel into 2 parcels and sell one (60 acres). Davis indicated that was fine and was not subject to Subdivision Review.

Stell asked for information on the function of the Planning Board. Nuzzo stated that the Planning Board works under direction of the Town Board, but also works proactively to address issues that the Planning Board feels are of concern to the Town. The Planning Board then brings this to the attention of the Town Board and requests that the Town Board direct the Planning Board to work on the issue(s).

Stell brought up concerns about the burnt out building in the Hamlet that has not yet been torn down. He has met great resistance from the Town Board to have the CEO send a registered letter to have this torn down. He inquired about ways to encourage the Town Board to address this concern.

Schwartz discussed the low economic potential for shale in Tioga County. He and other Planning Board members attended a presentation that addressed actual costs and profits of fracking in PA. The shale in this area is thin and wells have very low production, therefore

there may be little potential for fracking here. Stell stated that Chesapeake was abandoning current leases, and will prepare new leases at some future time.

Davis inquired about posting the Planning Board minutes on the Town website. He will check with Elaine Jardine if we are legally required to post the minutes. Stell said it would be informative for Town residents to understand the efforts the Planning Board is making. Davis will now post approved Planning Board minutes on the website.

Nuzzo stated she would prepare questions for a town-wide questionnaire to integrate into the revised Comprehensive Plan. Questions will address infrastructure needs, interest in industrial development, water quality, fracking, visual appearance of town; quality and preservation of natural resources; public transportation needs. Schwartz suggested a format that would list issues of concern, with a "Check all that apply" option, then use a 1-5 scale for each specific question.

Davis gave an update on the newsletter. Some 450 copies were mailed out: 365 mailed to Richford residents with post office boxes (90) and addresses in Richford (250), plus Berkshire (85) and Brooktondale (29). Additional copies were sent by e-mail to 49 addresses in the Town. E-mail delivery saves the Town over \$2/year/newsletter.

Schwartz suggested an item for the next newsletter; a list of all businesses in Town. Nuzzo suggested contacting all candidates for Town office in September to prepare a short statement for publication in the October newsletter. Nuzzo will request each candidate to state their positions on a number of issues, including road protection, fracking, and their vision for Richford, as well as their qualifications and education.

Schwartz moved and Nuzzo seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.