

Town of Richford Planning Board

MINUTES – November 6, 2013

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

Meeting started at 7:03 pm. The October minutes were reviewed. Stanford moved and Schwartz seconded to accept the October minutes as written; unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davis stated the newsletter was produced one week late due to difficulty obtaining a statement of suitable length from one of the Town Board candidates; the statement exceeded the available space.

Discussion about the local elections. Turn out was very good – 306 voted out of some 600 registered voters.

Nuzzo reported on the proposed questionnaire – there has been some progress since last month, focusing on wording of the different questions. Schwartz urged that the first step was to get the questionnaire written, get the results, and then work on updating the comprehensive plan.

Davis presented information about a road protection law he found on the web that seems to be suitable for the Town; the law did not mention specific activities. Schwartz emphasized the need to include in any road protection law a clear requirement for all applicants to pay for any and all professional expertise needed by the Town to assess the application. Davis expressed concern that the law he found put a very large burden on the Highway Superintendent. Stell suggested that the Town Board budget include an extra \$10,000 for unexpected expenses that may arise if fracking begins next year. If the money is not spent, then it can be applied to buying the Delta Engineering Road Protection services, which includes the appropriate laws. Davis emphasized the importance of having a fee schedule that is separate from the law, allowing the fees to be easily updated as needed. Schwartz and Davis will send the draft around to Planning Board members for comments, and then will work on modifying the proposed law, and then send it around to Planning Board members for their review.

NEW BUSINESS:

A local citizen requested information on a proposed lot that will be split into 2 parcels. It will exceed 2 acres and meet the minimum dimensions, etc, but has inadequate road frontage (140 feet). Nuzzo will talk with the Code Enforcement officer about what to do; this is not a subdivision, but it needs to meet the legal lot requirements. He may need to ask for a variance about the driveway.

Davis reminded members about the 4 hour training requirement. Nuzzo and Schwartz and Davis have met those requirements for the year. Davis urged new members to study the Open Meeting and Planning Board modules. Schwartz will attend a workshop in Oneonta on Dec 3

about the new SEQR act. He will inquire about bringing a copy of the powerpoint presentation back to present to the Planning Board.

Stell inquired about what the train cars carry on the train tracks that go through Richford. Davis indicated propane. Stell urged that we develop 'shelter in place' information in preparation for a potential accident. He also suggested using a system that involves alerting emergency personnel to any medical conditions in each residence; a similar system is in place in other communities

Davis urged that the Planning Board and the Town Board send letters to our congressmen and USPS requesting that the Post Office be reopened. The postal drop box was removed. Nuzzo proposed that Davis draft a letter about these concerns and sign it as Chair, and present it to the Town Board tomorrow night. Stanford seconded. Unanimously approved.

Davis presented a Public Conduct at Board Meetings paper. He will present it to the Town Board and recommend its adoption, for all Town and Board meetings. It should also be posted at the Town Hall and used for all Boards and Town meetings. Schwartz suggested that some banners would be acceptable, such as for a girl scout troop.

Davis inquired about the Dog Licensing forms on the website. Stanford indicated it was a simple process using a pdf form.

Discussion about making forms for different local laws, such as the Subdivision law and Site Plan Review law, easily accessible to the public. There has been no request for forms since these laws were adopted, although there are forms available. Nuzzo will prepare updated forms that can be put on the website.

Davis recounted a discussion with Supervisor Wilcox about the status of a Town of Richford Ethics law. The Town Board worked on developing one but has not proceeded further.

Davis stated that Nuzzo's term will expire at the end of 2013. She agreed to serve a third term.

Schwartz brought information from a presentation held last week at Cornell. Jerry Afton used data from >1,000 fracking wells in PA and produced maps indicating real and projected shale depth and well production. Richford is located in an area with very little potential for shale oil production. Apparently gas companies have looked at this data, among other issues, and are pulling out of the area. Schwartz emphasized that wildcatters could still threaten the aquifer by cutting through it. A second concern is the Millenium Pipeline and the Dominion pipeline (both gas) and the Buckeye pipeline (liquid). There may be a problem with gas companies wanting pipelines and compressor stations to connect PA pipelines with these 3 lines, here in Tioga County and potentially in Richford.

Schwartz moved and Stanford seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.