

Town of Richford Planning Board

MINUTES – September 4, 2013

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

ABSENT -- Kim Stanford

Meeting started at 7:08 pm. The August minutes were reviewed. Stell moved and Schwartz seconded to accept the August minutes as written; unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Schwartz is working to finalize the meeting with Delta and nearby Towns.

Discussion about the letter to write to each candidate for Town office in September. to include in the next newsletter. Nuzzo will request each candidate to state their positions on a number of issues, including road protection, fracking, and their visions for Richford, as well as their qualifications and education. Highway Superintendent is contested, all other sites are uncontested. Suggestion to include a short note for each candidate, with number of years in the position. Nuzzo will send Davis a copy of the letter for each candidate, and he will send it out as soon the primary is held.

Discussion to include in the newsletter a Directory of Local Businesses. Schwartz will prepare the list.

NEW BUSINESS:

Schwartz provided an update on the Delta Engineering road protection plan. There is reduced interest in drilling, at least until after the next election, and it will be even more difficult to have Towns want to pay \$7-10,000 for a road protection plan, at least at this point. Schwartz suggested meeting with Berkshire Planning Board to discuss the questionnaires both are preparing, and this might help develop a relationship with Berkshire, which could eventually lead to a willingness to work together on other issues.

Stell inquired about how to encourage Town Board to invest now in quality road construction, so that roads won't continue to wash out from catastrophic storms, as occurred recently. Schwartz suggested investigating grants to improve roads, and grants to put high speed broadband in all Town buildings. Schwartz suggested assessing Town needs, and then looking for funding sources for those needs. Schwartz will look for grants and other funding opportunities and present them at the next meeting.

Schwartz presented information that he recently received, concerning property assessments being lowered due to presence of fracking on or adjacent to the property. In PA a family was denied a new mortgage because an adjacent landowner had a well. In NY an insurance company refused to renew insurance to a landowner who had a conventional well in the property. There is increasing concern about the negative economic impacts of fracking on property values, which may ultimately damage Richford.

Nuzzo presented a list of topics to be considered for inclusion in the Town-wide questionnaire. Discussion about the topics.

Davis reported that he is developing a Facebook page for the Town of Richford, to expand what is currently available on the Town website.

Stuhlmiller moved and Nuzzo seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.