

**Town of Byron Planning Board
Draft Minutes**

Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Byron Town Hall, 7028 Byron Holley Road, Byron, NY 14422

Those Present: Planning Board Members: Planning Board Chairman Christopher Hilbert, Laura Bestehorn, Jason Jack, Bill Stevens, Jennifer Tuerk. Planning Board Secretary Patrick Carr. Byron Town CEO/ZEO Melissa Ierlan, Town Board Member Nathan Knickerbocker. Members of the Public: Barb Starowitz, Brandon Mason, Richard Walsh.

Call the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Note from Chairman Hilbert:

Please note that from this date forward all planning board meetings will be conducted as a business meeting. There will be an allotted time for public comments. At the next meeting and going forward you will need not only sign in but sign that you are requesting to speak. Each speaker is given 3 minutes.

Review and Approval of March 6th, 2024 meeting minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve the March 6th, 2024 meeting minutes made by Laura Bestehorn. Seconded by Jason Jack. All in favor. None opposed.

MOTION PASSED

Introduction of Lawyer

Bridget O'Toole is the new Town of Byron Attorney. She is also the town attorney Looking forward to working with the planning board and other boards in the town.

Letter of Resignation

Chairman Hilbert read a resignation letter from Kaitlyn Moucha dated March 11, 2024. (Attached)

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the resignation letter from Kaitlyn Moucha by Laura Bestehorn. Seconded by Jennifer Tuerk. All in favor. None Opposed

MOTION PASSED

Meeting Training, Melissa Ierlan

Town CEO/ZEO discussed the training materials available to the board. 4 hours per year are required for each member. The Planning Board Secretary will keep track of these hours going forward.

Byron Forward Discussion

Byron Town Board Member, Nathan Knickerbocker, discussed the document titled "Byron Forward" presented by the MRB Group. The first step is getting zoning law revised. Next, the document goes into

the grants that are available to the town. Discussion of timeline and grant offerings and when we might be ready to apply. With some grants, the town will need to match the amount of the grant to receive it. There are also numerous other requirements for these grants. Housing Program, New York Main Street Program, NY Forward, and Clean Energy Communities were also discussed.

Nathan Knickerbocker announced that he was officially named the liaison for the planning board. He discussed a possible timeline to complete the zoning law revision. Next, the planning board should move forward with the comprehensive plan.

Discuss and review Town Codes and Lawyer's Comments

Chairman Hilbert emailed an update version of the Town Zoning Law to the board members for reference.

Town Attorney O'Toole discussed the comments she provided for the Town Codes. Planning Board Members decided what to accept into the Town Codes. Ms. O'Toole will do some more work on certain parts and will circle back before the next meeting.

The Battery Storage Law was not officially adopted. It was sent to the Town Board, but never formally adopted.

Public Comments

Q: Barb Starowitz – no place to sign up to speak at the meeting. When was this approved?

A: Chairman Hilbert – This was approved and implemented at the last meeting.

Q: How will this be handled going forward. How is the public supposed to know how to act?

A: Chairman Hilbert – There will be a separate sheet or checkbox on the sign in sheet going forward.

Q: After the public hearing concerning the application with Pete Yasses, going forward, is there anything the planning board could set up so they can know more about the applicant? There was information that was not provided beforehand.

A: Town Board Member Knickerbocker – It's not that they did not want the public to speak, they are looking to bring more organization to the meeting.

A: Town Attorney O'Toole – It is very difficult for the person keeping the minutes to keep track of who is speaking. This is not to prevent public participation, but rather for the planning board to hear and record what is being said. This is a business meeting. Public hearings are held for the planning board to receive comments, not to answer them. The planning board then deliberates. No state or local law requires that the planning board answers questions from the public, it is not the purpose of public hearing.

Further discussion between Barb Starowitz and Ms. Toole regarding the public hearing.

Town Board Member Nathan Knickerbocker introduced Brandon Mason as the new Town Planning Board Alternate. The Planning Board Secretary will get him set up with an email.

No other public comment

Other Business

No other Business

Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 1st, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Adjournment

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Laura Bestehorn. Seconded by Jennifer Tuerk.
All in favor. None Opposed

MOTION PASSED

Meeting ADJOURED at 8:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Carr
Planning Board Secretary