

**PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF BERNE
PO Box 57
Berne NY 12023**

Date: August 20, 2020

Present: Mike Vincent, Planning Board Chair, Todd Schwendeman, Mark Sengenberger, Emily Vincent, Larry Zimmerman, Cathy Shultes (Planning Board Secretary), Mat Harris (Town Councilmember, Liaison) and other interested citizens

Regular Meeting:

- Mike Vincent, Planning Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- Review of Minutes from August 6, 2020.

***Motion:** Todd Schwendeman made a motion, seconded by Emily Vincent to accept the minutes from August 6, 2020 as amended. Motion carried with the following members voting aye: Mike Vincent, Todd Schwendeman, Mark Sengenberger, Emily Vincent and Larry Zimmerman.*

Old Business:

- MidTel Communications (regarding the building located at the Berne Firehouse)
129 Canaday Hill Rd, Berne, NY 12023
SBL: 78.-3-16.2

Mark Sengenberger will provide an update regarding the landscaping and possible alternatives at our September 3, 2020 Planning Board meeting.

Workshop Topics:

- Barbara Kennedy / former White Sulphur Springs Property currently owned by Evangel Church
1425 Helderberg Trail, Berne, NY 12023 SBL: 79.-3-27

Ms. Kennedy approached the Planning Board with her thoughts on purchasing the former White Sulphur Springs property that is currently owned by Evangel Church. Her plans for the property include a petting zoo, event venue, therapeutic horseback riding, etc. The Planning Board requested that she develop a more formal written proposal to present at a future meeting.

- **Zoom**

Planning Board members expressed concerns about Town of Berne meetings where people are attending via Zoom. It was mentioned that some residents were not granted access to the August 6 Planning Board meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2020 and will include 2 Public Hearings - it is imperative that all public comments are presented regardless if they come from someone physically attending the meeting or from an online attendee. Mark Sengenberger stated it worked well as a Planning Board member who is using Zoom to participate and he thought

that Mat Harris has done a good job. Currently, our Zoom meetings are provided and administrated / moderated by the Town attorney, Javid Afzali. Planning Board members discussed setting up their own Zoom account and providing their own administration / moderating of Planning Board meetings. Mat Harris will also work on providing a display of the Zoom meeting screen so that the Planning Board will be able to see activity from the online audience.

- 2021 Budget was discussed – Mike Vincent will review for modifications.
- Training Policy – During the August 3, 2020 Planning Board meeting, there were questions directed to the Town Board regarding the Training Policy. No response is available as the Town Board did not meet on their regularly scheduled 2nd Wednesday – they are scheduled to meet on August 26, 2020, and we are hoping to receive clarification at that meeting.
- Small Battery Energy Storage - The Planning Board will revisit our Application form, Local Law (draft), and review comments from the Town Board from late 2019.
- Albany County Planning Board Agenda – a copy of the agenda for their 8/20/2020 meeting was reviewed, our 2 applications for subdivisions (Borelli and Weis) were listed and additional cases of interest being heard include solar applications in the town of Westerlo. We will continue to review this document as it is a valuable informational tool regarding what other municipalities are experiencing.
- The Comprehensive Plan and how it relates to the Town's Solar Law will be added to a future Planning Board agenda for further discussion.
- Site Visit Form –the current form does not list road frontage information. The Planning Board will revisit this form and make necessary edits.
- Streetlight LED Upgrade – The Town is still waiting for the cost proposal. Further discussions are needed for a critical analysis and implementation plan.

Adjourn

Motion: Larry Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Emily Vincent to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. Motion carried with the following members voting aye: Mike Vincent, Todd Schwendeman, Mark Sengenberger, Emily Vincent and Larry Zimmerman.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Shultes, Administrative Assistant