

**Town of Berne
Planning Board Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2024**

- Chairman Bremer called the meeting to order at 7 pm
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: Chairman Bremer, With Board Members Vincent, Shultes, Kipper Khoury, and Alternate Member Warner all present.
- Review of meeting minutes from 11/30/23, Board member Shultes made a motion to approve the minutes from 11/30/23, Board Member Vincent seconded the motion, motion was carried with all members voting Aye.
- Review of meeting minutes from 12/07/23, Chairman Bremer made a motion to approve the minutes from 12/07/23, Board Member Shultes seconded the motion, the motion was carried with all members voting Aye.

- New Business:

1. TJA Clean Energy LLC. (SBL# 78.-3-16.12) 2198 Switzkill Rd

- Hyde Clarke Esq. from Young/ Sommer LLC attorneys for TJA Clean Energy Solar Farm Project, Michael Frateschi, the Engineer of the project gave an overview of the proposed Solar Project.
- The Applicants are looking to put a Tier 3 Solar Energy System consisting of 4.25 MW AC on a parcel of land that is 49.94 acres and located at 2198 Switzkill Rd.
- The Applicant is proposing the installation of a solar facility encompassing the site. A 20 ft wide gravel access road will enter from Switzkill Rd, and a utility pole line will connect the facility to the distribution system. Solar racking will be installed with driven piles, the facility will be surrounded by an 8 ft security fence and landscaping will be provided all the north and west side of the facility. Sheep will be used to maintain the vegetation. There is a lease agreement with a neighboring landowner, Mr. Becker, that allows Mr. Becker to still hay the property portion that is not being used for the solar panels.
- Jason Preisner, the Town of Berne Engineer will do his site visit and give feedback.

- **Chairman Bremer accepted the application for the Planning Board to review and perform site visits.**
- **Board Member Khoury suggested possibly meeting with the Town of Westerlo about the pros and cons of Solar Farms since they went through the process and a Solar Farm was approved there.**
- **It was decided that all members of the Planning Board would go individually or in pairs to perform the site visits.**
- **Kathleen Moore Chairman of Town of Berne Conservation Board has been notified of the application and the Conservation Board will do their site visits as well.**
- **Next Planning Board Meeting is February 8, 2024**
- **Chairman Bremer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Board Member Kipper seconded the motion, the motion was carried with all members voting Aye**

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

**Peggy Sue Deitz
Administrative Assistant**