

**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 did a review and gave TJA and the Town of Berne Planning and Zoning Boards a hard copy**

of his findings, and things that we are requesting further information on from TJA. The Planning Board Members were advised that the ZBA declared to be the lead Agency for the Solar Application and SEQRA as per Town Solar Code.

- **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**