

TOWN OF ARIETTA PLANNING BOARD
Piseco, NY 12139

Meeting Dated:
Tuesday September 14, 2021– 6:00 P.M.
Piseco School

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Sheila Crouse
Mary Kiewicz
Bryan Rudes
Alternate/Secretary Marie Buanno

Members absent:

Bob Thomson

Others present: Todd & Erin Vedder

A motion was made by Mary Kiewicz to waive the reading of the August 2021 minutes and to accept them as written. 2nd Bryan Rudes. All were in favor 3 – 0. Sheila Crouse did not vote as she was not present at the August meeting.

Todd Vedder approached the Planning Board to update the Planning Board about the property he is purchasing from Hamilton Place LTD. He would like to do a boundary line adjustment to acquire 30 feet of the adjoining Hamilton Place LTD property. Mary had told him 30 feet is too big for a boundary line adjustment. According to our APA regulations it has to be 25 feet or less in width. Todd said the biologist looked at the property and told them the APA were not going to deny the boundary line adjustment and that the 25 ft. rule is only a guideline. APA makes exceptions to that rule. Mary questioned how they were going to get the dock situated. Todd explained that it is not that far. Mary asked how they would be presenting this to the Planning Board for official approval. She further explained she would need to sign a mylar map and affix the Planning Board stamp in order for them to file it with the County Clerk. It will be advertised for public comment. The lack of neighbors should help to expedite the process when notifying closest neighbors. Mary will contact the APA and ask them to specifically note in the paperwork from them that the 25 ft. rule is only a guideline. This will probably be a topic at the October Planning Board meeting.

Mary thought we should have a brief talk about the possibility of beefing up the codes on clear cutting. Currently ours mirrors the APA regulations. This is apparently happening everywhere. In fact, Lake Pleasant is having an issue right now whereas clear cutting has affected someone's septic system and they are possibly suing. Our code is stricter than the APA as we require a 100 ft. setback. Bryan felt the problem lies not in the code itself but in enforcement and education of the codes we have. During the summer months he felt Zoning and Codes Officer Mel LaScola should have some kind of help in monitoring this kind of thing. Mel cannot be everywhere all of the time. People need to be made more aware of what is acceptable. You don't need a permit to take down a tree. The issue is how many you cut down. Marie felt a step was being missed. Perhaps when anyone comes in inquiring about a building permit of any kind, they should be reminded of the clear cutting codes in place. It was noted that the recent clear cutting that has been spotted on the lake has gained the attention of both the APA and the DEC although no one knows how they were informed. The fines we have in place are nothing in the scheme of things. Some would just pay the fine so they can do what they want to do. Code 17.040 indicates something other than a monetary fine could be imposed such as fixing it. It will be interesting to hear about the APA and DEC determinations on this property.

Marie wanted to discuss a little bit about the Town's ability to condemn a property. She had thought Mel did not have the authority to condemn. According to some on the ZBA, he does have the authority. Marie thought a Structural Engineer was required to condemn and that it was quite a legal process. Since we do not have a Structural Engineer, does the Town need to hire one? Marie may be contacting the Town Board to inquire further.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bryan Rudes. Seconded by Sheila Crouse. All were in favor 4 – 0.

Our next meeting will be October 12, 2021.

There are no attachments to these minutes.

Respectfully submitted, Marie C. Buanno