

****DRAFT**TOWN OF SMITHVILLE
PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021**

Call to Order: Chair Shane Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board Members Present: Chair Shane Butler, Bob Brooks, Dakota Warren, Fred Heisler, Jr., Marie Kehl, Donna Marie Utter, Clerk.

Others in Attendance: Alison Owens, Town Clerk

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion made by Planning Board member Dakota Warren to approve the February 3, 2021 minutes with the following corrections:

"Under Broadband Grant – correct spelling of Broadband;

Under New Planning Board Member – add: Advertisement for a new Planning Board member was made in the *Evening Sun* as well as on the Town's website."

Seconded by Planning Board member Bob Brooks. All members voted aye, motion carried.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Welcome New Planning Board Member:** Marie Kehl was introduced as the new Planning Board member filling the vacancy left by Adam Whitbeck's resignation.

- **Drone Law Request:** A letter and back-up documentation was received from Mrs. Lynn Brooks requesting a Town Ordinance regarding drone operation. There have been several incidents regarding a drone being flown in the early morning hours within close proximity to her residence. The incident was reported to the Sheriff's Office. Chair Butler has reached out to all counties within NYS to see if there are any ordinances out there. Regulations for drone operation falls under the FAA guidelines. Identification and enforcement of any regulations/ordinances would be the biggest obstacle.

- Board member Kehl asked if the Town could require drones to be registered?

- Chair Butler stated that you could request that they be registered, but there is no way to be sure that all are.

- Board member Heisler stated that information and a statement regarding the FAA guidelines could be posted on the Town's website.

- This matter will be tabled until more information is received on what options are available.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Broadband Grant:** The grant application decision has been postponed for another month, so we won't hear anything for a couple of weeks. Chair Butler stated that he attended a presentation last night by Bob Knight, Chair of a broadband collective group

which discussed various broadband options. Spectrum is running fiber optic cables from Route 41 in Smithville towards Cortland County. The fiber optic cables are what broadband companies can tie into. Clarity Connect – Point Broadband are replicating the Spectrum area with wireless connections which are cheaper. The use of antennas to distribute broadband is approximately \$30,000 per mile. There are several pots of money available for broadband expansion such as FDA, Infrastructure Bill, and grants. Due to the exposed need for broadband expansion discovered during COVID, there is a big push to make broadband available to everyone and everyone is trying to take advantage of that push now.

- **Water System:** The Town Board has authorized doing a study regarding the feasibility of a water system for the hamlet. Town Clerk Alison Owens stated that an RFP for an engineering firm have been sent out and the use of various grant are being explored.

- **Clean Energy Grant:** We are still waiting for the resolution.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

- There being no other business to come before the Planning Board, Chair Butler adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Next Planning Board Meeting is Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Donna Marie Utter, Planning Board Clerk