

**Town of Smithville
Planning Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 3, 2016**

Planning Board Members: Chairperson, Jackie Centerwall, Shane Butler, Robert Brooks and Adam Whitbeck; Clerk, Suzette Valachovic

Planning Board Members in Attendance: Chairperson, Jackie Centerwall, Shane Butler, Robert Brooks, Adam Whitbeck, and Suzette Valachovic.

Planning Board Members Absent/Excused: None

Others in Attendance: Joel Bowman; Alison Owens, Town Clerk

Jackie Centerwall called the Planning Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes.

January 6, 2016, minutes were presented for approval. Chairperson Jackie Centerwall asked for a motion to approve the January 6, 2016 meeting minutes; motion made by Robert Brooks, to approve the minutes, 2nd by Shane Butler, vote unanimous, motion approved and accepted.

2. New Business.

- Chairperson Jackie Centerwall received a telephone call from Chris LaCotta inquiring about subdividing his property. He has 2 parcels, each with separate tax map numbers and is planning to divide his larger parcel into 2 parcels, transfer 1 to his son, retain the other and is inquiring if he needs approval. Chairperson Jackie Centerwall advised him to bring the information, copies of tax maps, etc to the planning board meeting for review, that she could not give him an answer without the Board first reviewing the documentation.
- Chairperson Jackie Centerwall asked members for a volunteer to preside over the March Planning Board meeting as she will be out of state. Shane Butler volunteered senior member, Robert Brooks to conduct and preside over the meeting, Robert Brooks accepted.

3. Old Business.

- Road Preservation Law – Joel Bowman, from Bowman Lumber addressed the Board with his interpretation and concerns with the present draft of the law. Mr. Bowman and his family have been in the logging business for 90 years and have experience with towns and counties and the use of roads. Mr. Bowman's major concerns, as listed in his letter which the Board reviewed at the previous meeting included:
 - Permit – turn-around time doesn't always allow the ability to take the time to obtain a permit and wait for approval. There are times when independent loggers have various bids out on logs and if bid is won, the logs must be moved within a few days and it wouldn't be feasible to have to wait for permits.
 - Road bond – the logger or property owner not the trucking company should be required to obtain a bond.
 - Axle distribution/weight should be defined
 - Seasonal load restriction
 - Need to define what is "damage" to the roads.
 - May want to evaluate Town Trucks and weight/axle distribution when full of sand and plows attached. It has been Mr. Bowman's observation that municipal trucks usually cause most damage to roads as they are overweight.

Mr. Bowman and his company do business in Chenango, Broome and Cortland Counties and obtain visible load permits from each county. Mr. Bowman also advised that he would be willing to come to another meeting when the Highway Superintendent, Tracy Oliver is available to attend to discuss these concerns in more detail with him.

Chairperson Jackie Centerwall suggested that it may be a good idea to gather a group of townspeople and business people, like Mr. Bowman to discuss with the Highway Superintendent concerns of a road preservation law. In reviewing the copies of the "permit letters" from the county, it was noted that the permit protects county highways, not town roads.

- "Simplified" Site Plan Information – Town Clerk Alison Owens was given a copy of the draft for her input, as she is the person who fields most of the initial questions. Upon her review, she advised that this would indeed be helpful and gave some formatting suggestions for ease of reading. Chairperson Jackie Centerwall reiterated that individuals must still review the Local Law, that this form is just an "aid". Chairperson Jackie Centerwall will work on completing the draft and provide to members for review.

4. **Adjournment.** Jackie Centerwall asked for a motion to adjourn; motion made by Adam Whitbeck, 2nd by Shane Butler. Vote unanimous, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20

Planning Board meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month, at 7:00 p.m. at the Smithville Community Center.

Next Planning Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

PLANNING BOARD 2015 SCHEDULE:

January 6th

March 2nd

May 4th

July 6th

September 7th

November 2nd

February 3rd

April 6th

June 1st

August 3rd

October 5th

December 7th

Respectfully submitted,
Suzette Valachovic
Planning Board Clerk.