

**TOWN OF SMITHVILLE
PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

Call to Order: Chair Shane Butler called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Planning Board Members Absent:

Others in Attendance: Allison Owens, Town Clerk; Supervisor John Cammarata

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion made by Planning Board member Dakota Warren to approve the September 2, 2020 minutes, seconded by Planning Board member Fred Heisler, Jr. All members voted aye, motion carried.

- Motion made by Planning Board member Adam Whitbeck to approve the October 7, 2020 minutes, seconded by Planning Board member Bob Brooks. All members voted aye, motion carried.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

Deborah Wahl Cottage Site Plan Review (Tax Map 188.16-1-4):

- Deborah Wahl is looking at purchasing a camp cottage located on Spaulding Road and is seeking Planning Board permission to change the current camp from 24' x 33' w/porch facing lake; to a 26' x 30' all season camp. Plans for the inside of the camp were received, but nothing regarding the outside lot dimensions and plans for the septic and water source.

- Chairman Shane Butler will send her a follow-up email requesting information regarding the septic and water source information prior to approval by the Planning Board.

Water & Sewer System:

- A request was made by some residents for the Town Board to look into the possibility of a water and sewer system within the hamlet. The Town Board referred the issue to the Planning Board for their input.
- While the DOT has been working on the new bridge, some nearby septic systems were damaged and as the DOT was repairing the damage, an old septic tank ruptured and leaked into the surrounding ground polluting neighboring water sources.
- A possible water and sewer system was looked into a number of years ago and was not economically feasible for the Town to pursue.

- If the DOT damaged systems, the residents could file a class action suit against them to seek remedies.
 - Supervisor Cammarata stated that he was told if the DOT and the aggrieved homeowner cannot come to an agreement, they will buy the property which would remove it from the tax rolls. The state has offered to put in a well to give them a water source, however there are 3 other septic tanks located behind the property.
 - Chairman Butler stated that the water supplied to the Town Hall should probably be tested, even though it is not used for drinking.
 - Supervisor Cammarata stated that Senator Akshar is involved.
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- Supervisor Cammarata also stated that the Hatfields' are selling their property of Cincinnatus lake which includes the dam. Several individuals have been interested in the house, but do not want to be responsible for maintenance of the dam. There is no Association for the lake any more to take care of the dam. The Town is looking at possibly adding a fee to their taxes to cover the costs of maintaining the dam.

Renewable Energy Law:

- Chairman Butler stated that there is now an Office of Renewable Energy which will review property regarding a new Renewable Energy Law. Towns need to have a site plan law that includes renewable energy. The Town of Guildford has one, and Norwich is currently developing one. Chairman Butler suggested that the Planning Board review theirs and make changes to fit Smithville. The state can still override an individual Town's determination; however, they have to take their determination into consideration.
- Chairman Butler will obtain copies and send them out for board members to review and discuss at our next meeting in December.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Junk Storage Law:

- Board member Bob Brooks asked if there was anything that could be done about properties with an accumulation of junk cars which are an eye sore. Is there a possibility of having an amnesty day.
- Supervisor Cammarata stated that even if a ticket is written, there is no one willing to enforce the law. An amnesty day would cost the Town money to remove the junk vehicles and there is no money in the Town budget for that purpose.
- Board member Fred Heisler, Jr. suggested that an amnesty day for civic pride could be held and you might be able to get some volunteers to dispose of the junk.

4. ADJOURNMENT: 7:39 – Bob - Dakota

- There being no other business to come before the Planning Board, a motion was made by Planning Board member Bob Brooks, seconded by Planning Board member Dakota Warren to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Next Planning Board Meeting is Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Donna Marie Utter, Clerk