

Planning Board

Town of Columbus, Chenango County, New York

Minutes: Meeting of December 15, 2011

Planning Board Members present: Jack Harper, Lori Horner, Eileen May, Mike Simons, Kay Winton

Town Board Members present: Susan LaFever (Town Board liaison)

Public Present: Jeanette Avolio, Ben Benjamin, Jim Benjamin, Antoinette Farrell, Leroy Farrell, Tom Grace, Ronald E Hall, Shirley R. Hall, Jim Lambert, Kenneth Plows, Jane Prohaska, Jill Robinson, Bill VanTran, Robert Zaleski

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Kay Winton.

Review of Previous minutes: A motion was made by Mike Simons to accept the November Minutes. It was seconded by Eileen May and approved by all.

Public Comment:

Jane Prohaska told the Board that the Honor Society at Unadilla Valley does Community Service and they might be interested in volunteering for work at Norton Park (contacts: Chris Bienieck and Jessica McFrey). Susan LaFever will pass this information back to the Park Committee.

Bill VanTran submitted a letter opposing the transmission line going down Route 8. It is attached to these minutes.

Reports and Action on Old Business:

1. NYSEG Transmission Line:

Rich Fornito submitted an alternate route to Wells Horton. The suggested route would follow the 803 transmission route until the most eastern crossing of Rock Calhoun Rd. At that point it would head due south and then southeast to the new substation. This route would avoid all homes and most woods.

The attending public raised concerns about the transmission line going down Route 8. Some of the concerns were:

- It would affect tillable land

- It would affect maple sugar farming

- It would take more land from the existing race track

- It would affect the property value if divided in the future

Residents also wanted to push for burying the line in sensitive areas. It was also suggested to put the new line on existing pole.

Susan Lafever suggested tying the concerns directly to parts of the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

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A motion was made by Jack Harper for the Town Planning Board to send a letter to NYSEG with the public's concerns as it relates to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The motion was seconded by Mike Simons and approved by all. Susan LaFever will draft a letter.

2. Water Withdrawal Permit (Susquehanna River Basin Commission):

The SRBC will not be acting on the application from Agro Farma to withdrawal 1.5 million gallons of water a day from 3 wells until March or April according to the DEC Region 7 Director. The Director sits on the SRBC.

It was also mentioned that the wells will need to be monitored. This includes the wells for Agro Farma and local residents.

Mike Simons mentioned that there will be a meeting in South Edmeston for local citizens. He will let the Board know when there is a date set.

3. 239 Review:

The Sanitation Law was approved by the county with the recommendation of higher fees.

The Road Preservation Law was also approved though they recommended putting in the section we removed in Section 4 Part 3 (regarding snowplows, school buses, emergency vehicles). They also suggested we have fees as in other municipalities and to have the fees set by the Town Board instead of the Highway Supervisor.

4. Site Plan Review update:

It is still in the hands of the Town Board. The Planning Board recommended a minimum lot size of 5 acres, minimum road frontage of 500' and 50' setback from the road and 30' minimum from sidelines. The Town Board wanted to check what other local towns had and the following is what they found:

- a. Sherburne has no specific lot size
- b. New Berlin doesn't have a minimum lot size but it does have a 3:1 ratio to prevent spaghetti type lots
- c. Lebanon has a minimum of 1 acre lots unless more is required. They have a 150' frontage, 20' minimum setback from the road and the sidelines.

5. Website:

Nothing new to report.

6. Training:

Planning Board members need 4 hours of training for the year. See the Assignment section for more information.

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New Business:

1. Mike Simons made a motion to accept Corey Lounsbury's resignation from the Planning Board. Jack Harper seconded the motion and was accepted by all.
2. Jack Harper made a motion for Eileen May to fill Corey's position on the Planning Board. Mike Simons seconded the motion and was approved by all.
3. Dan Avolio has expressed interest in joining the Planning Board as an alternate member. Dan was unable to make the meeting but his wife attended. She was told he needs to fill out an application (found on the website) and return it to the Planning Board chairperson.

Assignments for next meeting January 19, 2012:

1. The dog law that was done by the Town Board earlier this year should be reviewed and the fees within the law should be removed and put into the Schedule of Fees and Penalties.
2. Please make sure your 4 hours of education is completed for the year. The completed education form has to get to Brenda in January. The form is attached to these minutes. Following are some possible classes to take
http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/lut-Training_Video.html
<http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/lut-onlinetraining.html>
http://cdrpc.org/Workshops/2010-04-08_PBO.pdf
<http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/planning/acrobat/training/planningboardbasics.pdf>

Meeting adjourned at 8:10: Motion made by Mike Simons and seconded by Eileen May.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.

As always, we ask that you please contact Wells if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Minutes submitted by L Horner

TO: TOWN OF COLUMBUS PLANNING BOARD

FROM: WILLIAM VANTRAN

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2011

RE: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED ROUTE 8 POWERLINE

I OPPOSE THE PROPOSED CHENANGO COUNTY TRANSMISSION LINE ALONG ROUTE 8. THIS ROUTE WILL PUT THIS 46,000 VOLT LINE ACROSS MY FRONT YARD, DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO MY HOUSE.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE SURVEY BEING DONE BY TRC, A COMPANY EMPLOYED BY NYSEG WAS ONLY DONE ON 12/13/2011, IT SEEMS THAT BEFORE AN INTELLIGENT DECISION CAN BE MADE THE PLANNING BOARD WOULD NEED THE INFORMATION ON ALL THE PROPOSED ROUTES.

IN 1969 DUE TO A JOB RELOCATION TO CAMP GEORGETOWN, WE MOVED TO NEW BERLIN. WHILE LIVING IN NEW BERLIN, OUR DAUGHTERS ENJOYED PLAYING SOFTBALL UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. GREY ANDERSON. THEY WERE PRIVILEGED TO PARTICIPATE IN 4-H WITH MRS. KATHY FAIRCHILD. BOTH ACTIVITIES WERE FURNISHED IN THE TOWN OF COLUMBUS. THEREFORE, WHEN WE DECIDED TO MOVE OUT OF NEW BERLIN WE BUILT OUR HOUSE

TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS AND BEAUTY
OF LIVING IN THE COUNTRY FOR ALL
FOUR SEASONS.

WITH THIS HIGH VOLTAGE LINE NOW
PROPOSED TO CROSS OUR FRONT YARD, WE
WILL FOREVER DEAL WITH STRAY VOLTAGE.
OUR HEALTH COULD BE AFFECTED. THE
STREAM ON OUR PROPERTY AND OUR WELL
COULD BE POLLUTED FROM SEENAGE FROM
THE TREATED POLES. OUR VIEWS FROM OUR
LAND AND HOUSE WILL FOREVER INCLUDE
THIS POWER LINE.

IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT
ABOVE GROUND POWER LINES MUST BE
MAINTAINED. THIS INCLUDES SPRAYING
RIGHT-OF-WAYS WITH HERBICIDES TO CONTROL
WEEDS AND BRUSH. BURIED POWER LINES
DO NOT REQUIRE SUCH MEASURES.

IS THIS THE PRICE OF PROGRESS AND
POLITICS?

CC: CHENANGO COUNTY IDA (1)

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (1)

NYSEG (1)

COLUMBUS TOWN SUPERVISOR (2)

FILE (2)

Planning Board Members Personal Training Record

Member Name: _____ Year: _____

Date	Hours	Title of Session	Training Provider	Location

I, _____, a member of the Town of
(Print Name)

Columbus Planning Board certify that I completed the training described
above. _____
(Signature) (Date)

Please file this record with the Town Clerk.

Chairperson Signature: _____ Date: _____