

Montgomery County Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
March 14th, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayne DeMallie, Chairman
David Wiener, Member
Mark Hoffman, Member
John Lyker, Member
Robert DiCaprio, Member
Betty Sanders, Alternate

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Rose, Director
Andrew Santillo, Eco. Dev. Staff Assistant
Karl Gustafson Jr., Eco. Dev. Grant Assistant
Alex Kuttesch, Senior Planner
Vincenzo Nicosia, Eco. Dev. Specialist

ABSENT:

Erin Covey, Member
Ronald Jemmott, Vice-Chair
Irene Collins, Member
Jim Post, Alternate

OTHERS PRESENT:

Grant Egelston, City of Amsterdam

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DeMallie at 6:41 pm.

II. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Robert DiCaprio, seconded by Betty Sanders to adopt the agenda for the March Planning Board meeting.

III. Minutes

A motion was made by Mark Hoffman, Seconded by Robert DiCaprio to accept the December Planning Board meeting minutes. John Lyker abstained.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Referral City of Amsterdam- 171 E. Main Street

Wayne DeMallie explained that the proposed project is a site plan review for a Fitness Center located on 171 East Main Street in the City of Amsterdam. Grant Egelston told the board that it won't be like planet fitness, more one on one training or small groups.

Robert DiCaprio made a suggestion that the landlord needs to make façade upgrades to building.

Robert DiCaprio made a motion to accept the site plan review with a recommendation to upgrade the façade of the building, David Wiener seconded. All members were in favor.

The referral was approved.

VI. Referral Town of Amsterdam- Zoning Change

Ken rose explained to the board that is referral is an amendment to zoning law adding a maximum size for utility-scale solar energy systems in residential zoning districts. The town would like to restrict commercialized solar in residential areas to 150 acres.

David Wiener asked if one solar company is dominating the market, if so is the town trying to restrict a certain company that is looking to come in. Ken Rose stated that there is not just one solar company interested in Montgomery County land. There are multiple.

Robert DiCaprio questioned why the Town of Amsterdam has set a limit on solar companies in residential neighborhoods. Ken Rose explained that it would prevent a large scale utility solar project to come to the town. Utility solar projects are the larger sized projects that have been popping up throughout Montgomery County, Ken explained.

Mark Hoffman made a motion with no modifications to approve the zoning change in the Town of Amsterdam, seconded by John Lyker. David Wiener, Betty Sanders and Wayne DeMallie were in favor, Robert DiCaprio was not in favor. The referral was approved.

VII. Referral Town of Canajoharie- Budd St. Designation

Ken Rose stated that there is a law in place, that when you turn a road into a minimum maintenance road, such as this, it must come to the county planning board for approval.

Wayne DeMallie raised the concern about the future building lots on Budd St. Betty Sanders asked how can you turn the road into a minimum maintenance road when people will be using that road to get the these buildings.

Wayne DeMallie asked Ken Rose if future homes wanted to be built on Budd St., are the residents going to have a dirt road that is not maintained year-round. Ken Rose stated that he was unsure if the Town of Canajoharie was maintaining the road up to this date.

John Lyker stated that by making this road change, it hinders growth in the Town of Canajoharie. John Lyker used a road in his town as an example. The specific road was

going through the same change but it was a designated mail route, the town had made the changes not realizing it was a mail route to people that lived on both ends of the road.

John Lyker made the motion to take no action on the Budd St. Designation referral, seconded by Mark Hoffman. All were in favor.

No action was taken.

VIII. Other Discussion

None

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mark Hoffman, seconded by Betty Sanders to adjourn March 14th, 2019 Planning Board Meeting at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Karl Gustafson Jr.
Grant Assistant