

LIVINGSTON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2020

In attendance: CATHIE GEHRIG, Town of Mt. Morris; WILLIAM GRAHAM, Town of Groveland; DON KANE, Town of Leicester; STEWART LEFFLER, Village of Geneseo, Chairman; KAREN ROFFE, Village of Leicester; SARAH SANTORA, Village of Caledonia; KEVIN FAHEY, Village of Mt. Morris; APRILE MACK, Alternate #1; JOANNE PALMER, Village of Livonia; CLARA MULLIGAN, Town of Avon; ALEX PIERCE, Town of Nunda; BARRY INGALSBE, Village of Lima; C. JOAN CRUNDEN, Town of Caledonia; JARED RADESI, Town of Geneseo; JOHN VAN HEUSEN, Town of Ossian; JILL KALMAR, Town of West Sparta; JACK SPARLING, Town of Livonia

Staff: HEATHER FERRERO, Deputy Planning Director; SHAWN ROONEY, Planning Assistant; MARY UNDERHILL, Planner

Members Excused: DAVID LUCE, Town of North Dansville; DENNIS NEENAN, Town of Lima; ROBERT HAYES, Village of Avon; ANITA MARTUCIO, Town of Conesus

Members Absent: KATE WILCOX, Town of York; KYLE MOTT, Town of Springwater; TIM BRINDUSE, Village of Dansville

Guests: RANDY KOZLOWSKI, Town of Avon

Chairman Leffler brought the October 8, 2020, meeting of the Livingston County Planning Board to order at 7:12 p.m.

Chairman Leffler introduced and welcomed guests.

Chairman Leffler led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Leffler provided an overview of New York State General Municipal Law, Section 239-1, m, & n and reviewed the rules for member participation and voting.

Approval of Minutes from the September 10, 2020, County Planning Board Meeting

Chairman Leffler asked for a motion regarding the Minutes from the September 10, 2020, County Planning Board meeting.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 10, 2020, was made by Mr. Graham and seconded by Mr. Van Heusen. Abstentions were made by Ms. Kalmar. The motion carried.

Zoning Referral #2020-077, Town of Nunda, Review of Local Solar Law for the Town of Nunda (Applicant: Town of Nunda)

Ms. Underhill presented the staff report. Items discussed included:

- Ms. Gehrig is concerned as to why farms are exempt from site plan reviews in regards to traffic, as farms use the same roads? She suggests Tier 2 and Tier 3 be reviewed to include site plans so they can look at the potential impact on roads.
 - Mr. Pierce commented in regards to traffic impact of Tier 3 based on the scale size and frequency of management.
 - Mr. Pierce commented that the agricultural projects are not expected to have much of an impact on traffic, so the Town did not see a need to have a site plan review on Tier 2.
 - Mr. Pierce stated he will take the comment back to the Town for discussion.
- In the law it states that on a 40 or more-acre parcel, it shall not exceed 20 acres of coverage. There was a concern regarding if an applicant wanted to buy a 100-acre parcel, they would only be able to have coverage on 20 acres. What is to stop them from dividing the 100-acre parcel so they can have more coverage?
 - Ms. Underhill states there is a clause in the law that prevents an applicant from dividing the parcels and thus, circumventing the law.
- Ms. Crunden recommended that the words “non-invasive” be used when talking about the native plantings and pollinator plant species seeded underneath the panels.
- Ms. Mulligan was concerned for the fact that since farms aren’t required to have any sort of site plan, they probably aren’t required to have any sort of buffering or screening.
 - Mr. Pierce stated that the Town looked at “accessory use structure setbacks” and felt that additional requirements under Tier 2 for solar specific panels wasn’t necessary. Mr. Peirce stated the Town will look more into it.

A motion to recommend approval of Zoning Referral #2020-077 with staff and board comments was made by Ms. Gehrig and seconded by Mr. Graham. The motion carried. 16-0-0

Zoning Referral #2020-078, Town of Avon, Review of local law to establish a 6 month moratorium prohibiting Type 2 Solar Energy System Installations within the Town of Avon (Applicant: Town of Avon)

Mr. Rooney presented the staff report. Items discussed included:

- Mr. Pierce had a recommendation about tightening up definitions in the “grey areas” that the attorneys will be paying attention to. Max height and max tilt.
- It was commented that the site lines, topography and the time if day will play a factor in the height.

A motion to recommend approval of Zoning Referral #2020-078 with staff and board comments was made by Ms. Crunden and seconded by Mr. Radesi. The motion carried. 17-0-0

Local Announcements

None.

Other Business

- Training: Ms. Ferrero reported that everyone is required to have at least 4 hours of training a year. Ms. Ferrero is going to be sending digital resources for trainings at home.

The Department of State has several recorded webinars that will be recorded. Ms. Ferrero will send out individual emails to the board members with how many training hours you currently have.

- The 2020 US Census is ongoing. Shawn gave an update on the County's Census activities.
- Livingston County has a COVID-19 website: <https://www.livingstoncounty.us/1207/COVID-19>. There is map showing the statistics for Livingston County residents.
- The meetings will be held only by zoom, no in person for the months of December, January and February.

The next County Planning Board meeting will be held on November 12, 2020.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Palmer and seconded by Ms. Crunden. Motion favored unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, C. Joan Crunden, Secretary

Recorded by Jocelyn Bishop