

Saugerties Comprehensive Planning Committee

4-28-16 Regular Meeting: Minutes

Members present: Pat Fitzsimmons, Chair; Carmen Gramoglia, Josepha Gutelius, Bob Dederick, Samantha Dederick, Carol Ann Mayone, Susan Weeks, Steve Hubbard, Barry Benepe and Naomi Rothberg (Secretary). The minutes were taken by Naomi. Leeanne Thornton, liaison to the Town Board, was unable to attend.

Minutes for 3-24-26 were approved as written.

Pat asked if anyone had Town business to report, since Leeanne, who normally does the reporting, is away. Sam announced that the proposed legislation, which had been written by Vern Benjamin and Dan Shuster, to allow solar farms in the Industrial, OLI, low and medium density residential areas, was up for public hearing and that one issue was whether there need to be fences around them. Pat mentioned that copies of the legislation were available at Town Hall and on the Town website.

There followed a discussion of issues arising from solar installations, such as that panels on rooftops are a problem for firemen.

Barry's proposed changes to the subdivision regulations were on the agenda. Pat suggested that before we started on those we should address the Complete Streets program, which is still in the development phase, and furthermore will be advisory only even when finished, but which ought to be referenced in the regulations so that the Planning Board is alerted to the need to consider it.

Barry pointed out that our Subdivision law dates back to the 70's and much has happened since which needs to be reflected in it, such as a 2009 State law requiring road provision for bicycles and pedestrians. He suggested we address this in our proposed changes.

Naomi asked what our authority was to propose changes to the subdivision regulations.

Josepha said that when she had started on this committee, years ago, its purpose was to look over regulations and see that they conformed to the comprehensive plan.

Susan said conforming subdivision regulations with the comprehensive plan would be within our mission, but it might make sense to tell the Town Board that we proposed to do it and get their response.

Sam noted that her understanding was that in order to function in this way, proposing legislative changes, we needed to have a member of the planning board working with us. She and Pat then went on line and determined that nothing in State law requires this. There was a committee discussion and agreement was reached that we could proceed as we have in the past, without a planning board member.

Pat also noted that the Building Inspector has agreed to review any legislation changes we proposed to see if they would be enforceable.

After discussion, it was agreed to write a letter to the members of the Town Board based on language proposed by Steve, telling them that in the absence of other instruction, we proposed to suggest changes to the subdivision regulations to conform them to the comprehensive plan. Naomi will draft a letter to be reviewed by the committee.

There was a motion to adjourn at 9, which was seconded and approved.

The next regular meeting will be May 26th in the Town Hall Building Conference Room at 7 pm.