

# Town of Canton Planning Board

## Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2024

Municipal Boardroom - 60 Main Street, Canton

6:00pm

### Members Present

Chairperson Ian MacKellar, Eric Barr, John Casserly, Betsy Hodge, Sigie Barr (alternate), Dakota Casserly (alternate)

### Members Absent

William Myers

### Others Present

Margaret Mauch (Town Resident), Toby Irven (Town Resident), Cathy Shrady (Town Resident; Chair, Sustainability Committee)

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Chairperson Ian MacKellar.

### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved by the Planning Board for the meeting.

### Public Comment

Chairperson MacKellar opened the public comment period reminding people to state their name and where they are from, and keep their comments pertinent to the agenda topics at hand while adhering to the three minute time limit, and their comments will be added to the record.

#### Margaret Mauch

Ms. Mauch asked about the updates to the Town Code; specifically the changes to the Zoning Code as relates to the administration of the Planning Board and ZBA. It was noted by Code Enforcement Officer McQuade that the chapter regarding administration of the Planning Board and ZBA has been moved from its current location within the Zoning Code to its own chapter within the updated Town Code.

### Meeting Minutes

Corrections were requested to the minutes from January 8, 2024 by John Casserly as follows:

- The adjournment time for the minutes appears to be incorrect. This will be reviewed and updated accordingly.

A motion was made by John Casserly to accept the minutes from January 8, 2024 with the corrections above; the motion was seconded by Eric Barr. All in favor; motion carried.

## Agenda Items

### 1. Old Business

- a. It was noted that the draft of Chapter 9 of the new Town Code originally came out on February 1, 2023 and was shared with the members of the Planning Board at that time.
- b. Presentation by Cathy Shrady, Chair of the Canton Sustainability Committee
  - A powerpoint presentation was offered for the consideration of the Planning Board to recommend a process for project review in regards to the sustainability of proposals to the Planning Board.
    - This process could also be utilized across the Town when considering projects to ensure that the sustainability and environmental responsibility of the project has been duly considered prior to project approval.
  - At this time, no action was taken; however it was recommended that the Planning Board keep this suggestion in mind and recommend it to the Town Board if they feel so moved to do so.
- c. Discussion of Reimbursement Request Paperwork
  - Code Enforcement Officer Michael McQuade shared the history of the recommendation to monetarily support the members of the Planning Board.
    - Specifically, the Town Board voted as part of their budgetary process this year to pay the members of the Town Planning Board a quarterly stipend for their services.
    - Should any member decide to proceed with the compensation, a process would be in place for them to sign off on meetings attended to be approved by the Code Enforcement Officer.
    - The Planning Board members were reminded that the decision is up to each of them individually whether to accept the offer - at this time no members appeared to be interested in accepting.

### 2. New Business

- a. Solar Project Updates
  - Code Enforcement Officer McQuade noted that no significant updates to any solar projects are available at this time; however he will share the status report he maintains for these projects with the Planning Board.
- b. Other Code Enforcement Officer Updates
  - The proposed bio-digester that has been on the horizon is expected to present plans to the Planning Board in the next few months. A lease agreement has been signed with the proposed property owner at the corner of the Potsdam-Morley road and State Highway 310. More information on this project will be forthcoming.
  - A map for recommended solar sites was published recently by the St Lawrence County Planning Board, and shared with the Town Planning Board. It was recommended that the members review this information as a tool that developers could utilize in their planning processes. It was also questioned whether land owners included in the recommended locations would actually be interested in signing leases, which would limit the usefulness of such a guide.
  - CEO McQuade noted that 12 new homes were developed in the Town of Canton during 2023; with an average of 10 per year over the last six years.

## Public Comment

Chairperson MacKellar opened the second public comment period of the meeting; no additional public comment was offered.

## Next Meetings

Upcoming meetings of the Town Planning Board are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- Monday, March 4 at 6:00pm (if needed; no items are currently up for consideration)
- Monday April 1 at 6:00pm

These meetings will be held in the boardroom of the municipal building at 60 Main Street, Canton. The option to participate remotely will be made possible by way of Zoom Virtual Meeting.

## Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by John Casserly; the motion was seconded by Eric Barr and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Date: February 19, 2024

Jeni Reed  
Recording Secretary