



Vice Chair Donna Salamone called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM in the Board Room at the Schuyler Town Office, 2090 State Route 5, Utica, NY. Other Planning Board members present were James Digrsitina, David Fusillo, Jeanie Finster and Michael Ritter. Absent were Paul Thomas and Victor Costanza.

Also present were Codes Officer Philip Green, Town resident Richard Finster, proposed subdivision applicants/town residents Keith Joslin and Dave Mickel, proposed subdivision applicants/Utica residents Mike and Patricia Jasinski, and Bette Szesny, who served as Recording Secretary.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 2, 2016 REGULAR MEETING**

Motion by David Fusillo, seconded by Jeanie Finster to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting as presented; all in favor. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 9, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING**

Motion by Jeanie Finster, seconded by David Fusillo to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2016 Special Meeting as presented; all in favor. Motion carried.

#### **PROPOSED SUBDIVISION ON UPPER NEWPORT ROAD**

Patricia and Mike Jasinski, Keith Joslin and Dave Mickel were present to discuss their proposed subdivision. The division of the property as shown on the plot plan is as follows: Keith Joslin: 96.8 acres; Dave Mickel: 48.4 acres; and Mike & Patricia Jasinski: 48.4 acres, for a total of 193.6 acres.

Mr. Green stated properties totaling more than 5 acres who are planning a 3-way split do not require to go through a formal subdivision process. Therefore, the applicants are free to subdivide their property without Town approval. The secretary will send a letter to the applicants informing them of same.

The applicants thanked the Planning Board and left the meeting.

#### **GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Bette Szesny stated the Town has hired Tom Breiten to research grant funding opportunities for the Town of Schuyler, with a focus on Parks and Recreation grants. She said the Town Board and several Planning Board members attended a meeting with Mr. Breiten at the Town Hall on March 15<sup>th</sup> when he spoke on available grant funding, and he will be hosting a Public Informational Meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM to obtain public sentiment on recreational projects that could be largely funded by grants. As an example, she said the Canal Corp's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be upcoming in 2020, and Mr. Breiten has informed the Town Board the State will be funding completion of the yet unfinished Canal Trail throughout the state, a large portion of which is located in Schuyler.

Mr. Ritter asked about water/sewer infrastructure projects, and whether any grant funding opportunities are currently available. Bette Szesny stated at present, there is little opportunity for sufficient grant funding to support affordable infrastructure improvements in the Town, but County Legislator Jim Bono has reported that an expanded sewer infrastructure project is currently under study by the county, and this may permit some expansion into Schuyler in the not so distant future. She said Mr. Breiten has informed the Town Board that funding opportunities are currently available for municipal Parks and Recreation projects, and it is therefore the Town Board's immediate interest to pursue grant funding opportunities that will improve the quality of life for its residents by providing more recreational amenities such as trails and park improvements ... the current goal is to improve the aesthetics of the downtown area, possibly with a welcoming station

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at the West edge of Town advertising Town businesses and sidewalks/lighting up to the corners with a path leading to the canal to adjoin the proposed canal trail; these projects will hopefully add points to benefit the Town's eligibility for additional infrastructure projects that will support new business development in the Town.

#### **SETTING FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SPECIAL USE PERMITS**

Codes Officer Philip Green said there are no fines set in Town Law for violations of Special Use Permits which makes it difficult to control situations involving applicants' non-adherence to specific restrictions placed on application approvals issued by the ZBA. He said the Town Justices therefore have no guidelines to prosecute applicants who do not adhere to their agreements to comply with ZBA specifications outlined in approved applications for special use permits.

It was noted that violations of Town Laws are \$100 to \$250 for the 1<sup>st</sup> violation; \$250 to \$500 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> violation; and \$500 to \$1,000 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> violation, with all fines set by the judges. It was established that this fine structure would not be workable with violations of special use permits. Therefore, the matter was tabled for discussion at the next Planning Board meeting.

#### **THRUWAY BRIDGE CLOSURE**

Mr. Fusillo stated he and his wife are against the bridge closure, which was reported by County Legislator Jim Bono at the March Town Board meeting and in the April Schuyler Town Newsletter, when he encouraged Town residents to write letters of opposition. Mr. Fusillo stated he has sent a letter, and encourages the Planning Board to take a stand on this issue. All Planning Board members adamantly agreed, and directed the Secretary to generate a letter on the Planning Board's behalf to be sent, stating the many issues that would produce a serious negative impact on the residents of the Town and especially those who reside in the immediate area whose homes would not be adequately accessible in the event of fire or medical emergencies, along with a long list of additional issues that would impact their lives.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the Planning Board; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM on a motion by James Digristina, which was seconded by Michael Ritter.

— *Bette I. Szesny, Recording Secretary*

