



Planning Board ★★★★★★★★

MEETING NOTES SEPTEMBER 2, 2016 JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING
RE: DEVELOPMENT OF A SOLAR FARM ORDINANCE/AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE
MODERATOR: PAUL THOMAS, PLANNING BOARD CHAIRMAN

Chairman Paul Thomas called the workshop meeting of the Planning Board, Town Board and Zoning Board of Appeals to order on September 2, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the Board Room of the Schuyler Town Office, 2090 State Route 5, Utica, NY 13502.

Other Town officials present were as follows:

Planning Board: Vice Chair Donna Salamone; Victor Costanza; James Digristina; Michael Ritter; David Fusillo; and Jean Finster.
Town Board: Supervisor Kenneth M. Dodge; Town Council members Anthony J. Lucenti, Robert Van Dusen, Bette Szesny and Eric Kane.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Chairman Ronald J. Beach, Jr.; Vice Chairman Joseph Aiello IV; Judy Parry; Christine V. Proulx; and JoAnn Mammone.

Mr. Thomas stated the purpose of the meeting is to work on the development of a Solar Farm Ordinance that will amend the Town's Zoning Ordinance, to specifically address land use issues with regard to solar farms.

Mr. Thomas stated the first order of business is for the Planning Board to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2016 Meeting. Motion for approval by David Fusillo was seconded by Victor Costanza; with all in favor, motion was carried.

Copies of the NYS guidelines for solar farm ordinances were distributed. Other materials introduced by several members for consideration included Solar Farm Ordinances from the NYS municipalities of Johnstown and Newburgh, which became the focus for development of an ordinance that was judged to be worthy of adoption for Schuyler.

Mr. Ritter stated the Schuyler ordinance needs to address "free standing" and "roof top" solar facilities, for both commercial and residential uses, as well as solar farms.

All agreed the Town needs to allow solar energy facilities, and it therefore was decided to move forward with the development of an ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding formation of separate committees to study and investigate specific issues that might be included in the ordinance; however, since the general content of the ordinances adopted by Newburg and Johnstown met with everyone's approval as a good fit for Schuyler, it was ultimately agreed to utilize these ordinances as a model for development of the new ordinance.

Future efforts will include copies of the Johnstown and Newburgh Solar Farm Ordinances to be distributed to all members of the three Boards, with individual study of their content to be undertaken by each member, followed by another workshop session to follow when further work to develop an ordinance will be entertained.

Mr. Thomas noted the Town Board has passed a 6-month moratorium on solar farms which will provide adequate time to develop an ordinance that will be fair to all residents of the Town. He added that the moratorium can be lifted earlier if an acceptable ordinance is developed and adopted by the Town Board in advance of the 6-month moratorium period.

Mr. Thomas reminded everyone about the upcoming Planning/Zoning Training Seminar on October 5th. He said the Boards will therefore reconvene in November to continue their work on the ordinance.

— Minute notes were taken by Bette Szesny.