

Town of Colton

Planning Board

April 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Chair Kirke Perry

Members present: Ed Fuhr, Jeremy Bronson, Dan Murphy, Jeff Rousell, Anne Townsend, Kirke Perry

Others Present: Aaron Johnson, Chief of Fire Department, Ed Harcourt, Assistant Fire Chief, Joe Graves representing Blue Wave Energy, Darren Richards, Code Enforcement Officer

A quorum was noted.

The agenda was approved with a motion by A. Townsend, seconded by E. Fuhr.

The minutes, previously distributed, were approved with a motion by J. Rousell, seconded by A. Townsend.

Courtesy of the Floor: Joe Graves presented a proposal for a solar energy project in two locations, the Firemen's Field, comprising about 20 acres, and a second property off Gulf Rd., owned by Joseph and Debra Daprile, comprising approximately 30 acres (will cut back with modifications in project size to approximately 20 acres).

Both properties are zoned Recreational Rec., where these projects are not currently permitted. A modification to the current Solar District Table is being presented to the Town which would allow these projects if 500' from the Raquette.

Projects would produce approximately 6MW, the allowed quantity. There are no identified concerns regarding wetlands, some tree removal would be necessary.

The connecting transmission line would utilize the existing power poles down Pine Rd. Permission would be required. Most poles are on National Grid right of way, except one, owned by Peggy Mousaw.

Timeline for the next 90 days is to meet with Planning and Town Boards, obtain approvals and negotiate power transmission.

Payment for the project would benefit the Fire Department and ultimately the Town. J Rousell stated the importance that this project, being the first in the Town, went smoothly and that screening helped mitigate visual impact. J. Graves explained that the Daprile property is naturally shielded from view. The Hanson Rd. property has some screening. Additional screening may be needed.

Code Enforcement Officer Report: 10-12 permits in the last few days, mostly decks and additions. New transfer station-Kevin Hawley is planning for the binder and topcoat for the station. Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade-project estimated at 450K, 200K so far, and 211K left in ARPA leaving a cost to be divided among residents of approximately \$30,000. The estimated opening for the new transfer station is July-August with a soft opening on a Wednesday. Tours prior to the opening are being considered where residents could do a dry run to understand traffic patterns and the layout.

J. Rousell suggested that the Board could help with identifying where signage was needed. An informal committee meeting for this purpose was held after the PB meeting.

No New Business:

Unfinished Business:

Climate Smart Communities-We have more than enough points to qualify for the Bronze Level. D. Richards is currently working on seven grants including one on solid waste reduction.

Mark Fisher is working towards owning the buildings on both sides of Frank's Store. Bonno Construction has purchased White's Store.

Comprehensive Plan-J. Rousell reported meeting with a representative of the Watertown Office of the Department of State and felt this would be a very good long-term contact. She is, among other duties, the grants program administrator. She advised that state contracts are running slow. We need the RFP out.

J. Rousell also reported that the Board received 190 replies to the walkability survey. The next step is a face-to-face opportunity with Clarkson students, using visual aids to demonstrate options. May 25th at the Firemen's Chicken BBQ may provide the opportunity.

J. Rousell noted that the changes to facilitate solar as a conditional use are in the District Table as is one for cannabis dispensaries in the CC district. Changes need to go to the county first for approval.

The next meeting was set for May 14th

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M. with a motion from D. Murphy, seconded by J. Rousell

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Fuhr

Acting Secretary

