

Berkshire Planning Board Meeting Notes

February 7, 2023- 6:30 pm

Members with term expirations:

Charles Ouellette- Chair	2026
Ken Ceurter- Vice Chair	2025
Nancy Lohmann- Secretary	2027
Sam Davison	2024
Mike Bobol	2023
Jim Lacey- Alternate	2023
Open- Alternate	2023
Open-TCPB Representative/Alternate	2023

Meeting was called to order at the Town Hall at 6:35.

- **Roll Call:** Lacey, Lohmann, Ouellette, Davison, and Bobol were present. Ceurter was excused. Also in attendance were new CEO, Dan Cheresnowski, and Nate Coveney and Abraham David, two residents interested in possibly filling the open position of Planning Board Alternate.
- **Secretary minutes** were provided and amended by email prior to the meeting. Davison made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Bobal. All Planning Board members present were in favor.
- Dan Cheresnowski introduced himself and gave a brief summary of his education and work experience, as well as his membership on the Newark Valley Town Board, and current employment as the Newark Valley CEO. He indicated his willingness to come to PB meeting when requested and help with the task of updating building forms. His office hours will be on the second Tuesday of the month from 4-6, each Wednesday of the month from 5-7.
- Nate Coveney and Abraham David explained they were looking for ways to do volunteer work in the community and each gave some biographical information about themselves. The Planning Board members explained the purpose of the Planning Board and answered questions posed by Coveney and David. Knowing there was only one position to fill, David elected to not pursue the position. Thereafter, Lacey nominated Coveney to fill the position; the nomination was seconded by Lohmann. The PB unanimously approved the motion.

**Town Board Meeting:** Ceurter represented the Planning Board and emailed a summary to the PB members. Highlights were:

- Town Board approved the 2023 Fee Schedule, as well as, the appointments of Davison- 2024, Bobol-2023, Lohmann-2027.
- New CEO, Daniel Cheresnowski, introduced himself. He stated Spoonhower has given him the Local Laws notebook.
- Town Court will not be in session in January or February.
- Ceurter reported that the solar law is still waiting to be sent to the County Planning Board for their review. The Subdivision law has still not been recognized by the state. Flesher said he would resubmit it. Ceurter also explained the state's newly updated uniform code law and that the Planning Board would be working to update our 2015 version.

**County Planning Board Meeting:** In lieu of a Berkshire representative, Elaine J. will continue to email draft minutes to Ouellette and Ceurter.

- One 239 Review: Town of Nichols- a variance was requested to lease property to a company erecting poles and fiber cable throughout the town to improve broadband and internet service. Commercial activity is not allowed in Agricultural/Residential zoned districts; therefore, the vote was a unanimous disapproval of the variance.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Status of Solar Law – The law has not yet been submitted to the County Planning Board for their review.
- Status of Subdivision Law with DOS – The Subdivision law is still not listed on the DOS site. Ouellette will inquire on the current status of these two local laws.
- The County PB position remains unfilled.
- Lohmann attended the EMS town informational meeting and gave a brief summary of this meeting to the PB members.
- Uniform Code Draft- The PB worked on editing and drafting an undated Uniform Code local law.

**New Business**

- Open Planning Board position –Lohmann will send Coveney's recommendation to Town Board.
- Bobal volunteered to help keep the Town website updated. Lohmann will convey this offer to the Town Board.
- Flesher has resigned as Town Supervisor to fill the empty county legislator position. The supervisor position will be filled by Board member, Barbara Jordan.

Davison made a motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm. It was seconded by Ouellette. All members present were in favor.

PB meeting is scheduled for Tues., March 7, 2023 at 6:30 pm