

Planning Board of the Town of Mexico
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Held August 2, 2021
at 7:00 P.M. at McAuslan Hall

Present: Nancy Weber, Chairman
Steve Salatti, Board Member
Bonnie Loforte, Board Member
Gary Toth, Board Member
Absent: Rebekah Prosachik, Attorney
Allison Trudell, Board Member
Ron Marsden, CEO

And 0 in the audience

Chairman Weber opened the meeting at 7:03 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Toth and seconded by Loforte to approve the minutes of June 7, 2021 with the corrections of Gary Toth as “excused” as opposed to “absent.” The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Old Business:

Weber said Rosato is still on hold.

Weber said there should be a procedure in place for when an applicant runs into a roadblock. Weber said the town gave permission for the Zook sawmill located on Co. Rt. 41 to pile logs parallel to the road because they were held by a berm. There are no rules regulating sawmills at this time. The town should have an ordinance or a local law regarding sawmills. Toth said that there are some sawmills that are operating without permits. Loforte said without consistency, an Article 78 is possible. Weber said the zoning board and planning board held a workshop to discuss sawmills.

Weber said she spoke to the attorney about commercial businesses. Any business within the town should be collecting sales tax. Lumber is a taxable good. There also needs to be proof of the source of logs. Weber said there also needs to be an ordinance regulating sawdust piles. There are concerns about invasive species of bugs. Toth inquired about the 50 mile maximum transport distance for wood, including logs and firewood. Salatti asked why the DEC does not monitor sawmills. Weber commented that if someone has a garage sale for over 30 days, they are responsible to collect sales tax. Salatti suggested the attorney send a letter to the NYS Sales Tax office asking why sales tax is not collected.

Loforte said DOT made the same comments she had made at a previous meeting. Weber reiterated that a local law or ordinance for sawmills is needed. Weber reviewed the process for writing a local law. Loforte said that it is important that the local law identifies sawmills as safety, environmental, and financial concerns. Toth said that it is important to be consistent. Loforte agreed by citing inconsistencies in sawmill operations.

RIC would like to build a solar farm but on their terms. RIC is challenging our local law by saying that the definition of “lot coverage” for large scale and small scale solar farms is the

same. Toth asked about the megawatts output. Weber said it is 5 megawatts. Toth said 5 megawatts is standard. Weber said when the solar company wanted to build on Parish Woods Rd, there was never a complaint about the 14 acre limit. The only issue was the zone change. Weber said at the recent ZBA meeting, it was stated that if the project was not approved, it could be downsized. Toth asked what the status of the RIC application was. Weber said it was deemed incomplete. A letter was needed from the owners of the property allowing RIC to represent them.

Weber asked if Marcia DeLong was now on the ZBA. Dishaw said she is an alternate. Weber said according to the attorney, if the site plan for the Harvey Miller application is changed, the site plan would have to reappear before the planning board.

New Business:
None

Other Business:
Weber reminded the board that the sexual harassment and the four hour mandatory trainings are required to be completed by December 31st.

The next meeting will be on September 8, 2021.

A motion was made by Board Member Loforte and seconded by Board Member Salatti to adjourn at 8:35. The motion was unanimously adopted by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Dishaw
Town Clerk, RMC