

Mexico Zoning Board of Appeals

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held November 18, 2024 at the Town Hall Commencing at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Ned Waterbury, Chairman
Mathew Bryant, Counselor
Lori Behling, Counselor
Marty Trey, Counselor
Dan Yawman, Counselor
Absent: Ron Marsden, Code Enforcement Officer
Graham Seiter, Town Attorney

And 2 in the audience.

Chairman Waterbury called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30pm.

October minutes approval- Waterbury, Behling, all ayes

Old Business- none

New Business-

Other Business-

Chairman Waterbury invited Marcia Delong to give a brief explanation of Mexico's Comprehensive Plan and where we are in the process of updating it. Delong explained that the Comprehensive Plan provides direction for future zoning laws. Delong explained that the village and town municipalities are working together on the updates; they are currently working on reviewing a rough draft of the new comprehensive plan; a professional consulting firm has been hired to help.

Delong said a grant has been obtained, and a consultant has been hired to work with the Ag & Market committee to help amend the comprehensive plan with a focus on agriculture and farmland protection through helping farms remain sustainable while preserving and protecting natural resources. Delong said they will be doing a separate survey focusing on the benefits and challenges faced by our local farmers. Delong urged the board members to check the town's website for more information.

Delong said the overall completion date of the comprehensive plan of September 2025 will most likely be pushed back. Delong said the Ag & Market Steering Committee working on the farmland protection portion asked for a full 3 years from 2024 on their grant application to have ample time to complete the project. Delong is unsure of the overall concerns from the survey and adds that, for the survey to really represent the public's opinion, more of the public needs to take the survey; out of over 5,000 residents, less than 300 have taken the survey now.

Delong said water projects and zoning laws have been put in place since the 2003 plan and this new plan will help drive updates to local laws, specifically the zoning law. Yawman said there exists conflicts between our local zoning law and NYS agriculture law. Delong said this should be addressed by the Ag & Market committee regarding the farmland protection amendment when they review all of our local laws; the purpose is to preserve, protect, promote farmland and open spaces.

Bryant asked about the demographics of the survey and if there will be an opportunity to see if a good cross-section of the community was represented. Delong said we only had 271 responses; they personally visited all businesses in the village but the committee is discussing how to reach more people. Trey said technology overlooks a large group of people. Bryant asked if local laws can be amended concurrently. Delong said law updates would take place after the comprehensive plan is established. Bryant asked which group is charged with putting into action whatever the vision is. Delong said the town and/or village boards would be responsible for driving decisions for the town that are in line with the comprehensive plan. Trey guessed there were 23 goals from the 2003 plan and he would like to know which goals were accomplished, citing the importance of the review process. Yawman said the town needs an updated plan in order to apply for grant monies. Delong said she is hopeful that these documents are positive, progressive, and will help the town revise our local laws; Delong thinks we have an opportunity to hear the public's input regarding the direction of future growth for the community.

Bryant asked what the committees need help with. Delong said attending public meetings and sharing information about meetings. Trey asked if meetings could be live streamed. Delong said yes and asked if Trey would be able to help with that; Trey said yes. Bryant asked about getting a booth at Christmas in Mexico; Delong said there will be postcards at various businesses and local places to introduce the steering committee. Delong said the comprehensive committee is needing to make some decisions. Delong said the committee will present the draft to the board, who will make changes they see fit, then hold a public hearing, and then amend and/or accept the document.

The board thanked Mrs. Delong for updating the board.

A motion was made by Yawman and seconded by Behling to adjourn at 7:26pm. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Wild
Town Clerk