

**Mexico Planning Board
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Held August 4, 2025 at the Town Hall
Commencing at 6:30 P.M.**

Present: Nancy Weber, Chairwoman
Gary Toth, Counselor
Karen Davies-Buckley, Counselor
Allison Trudell, Counselor

Absent: Bonnie Loforte, Counselor
Ron Marsden, Code Enforcement Officer
Graham Seiter, Town Attorney

And 1 in the audience.

Chairwoman Weber called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30pm.

Review of minutes: Weber drew attention to the date, attendance needing adjustment in the July minutes draft. Wild updated the date and attendance.

Old Business

New Business

Other Business

Councilor Toth revisited the rationale behind the 10kw measure in the solar law. Chairwoman Weber added that information technology has changed dramatically since the origination of our solar law. Councilor Toth added that the land-use maps, laws, and review of renewables, road use, etc. Councilor Toth would like to see the solar updated; recalled the solar farm on rt 58. Councilor Toth said neighbors are claiming they never received notifications. Councilor Toth said the city of Oswego is looking at a moratorium on renewables projects. Councilor Toth said he doesn't like to see local rural municipalities being ignored. Councilor Trudell asked if the town could do anything with a moratorium to mitigate or buy us time to change the outcome. Councilor Toth said we need to look to our attorney to make sure it's enforceable. Chairwoman Weber said you'd want a timeline around a moratorium. Councilor Toth said they're recommending a moratorium on renewable energy, but he is unsure of the time period. Chairwoman Weber wondered what kind of chilling effect it would have on private renewable installations. Councilor Toth said this is the first one we've had since he's been on the board. Chairwoman Weber said there's one on Rt 104, but it never came to us. Chairwoman Weber said it should have but it didn't. Councilor Trudell said she thinks 6 months is

reasonable. Councilor Toth suggested a public hearing. Chairwoman Weber said that if we're recommending to the town board, it would be well served if it was both boards looking at it, and that they had a very clear statement ready for it because she anticipates a lot of questions. Chairwoman Weber said recommends and requests the ZBA look at the same thing and will include it in her report to the town board. Councilor Toth said to preface it with the comprehensive plan rationale. Solar farm on 58 (ZBA Chairman N. Waterbury) said his memory is quite good and he recalls being made aware of a phone call or note from a neighbor that there was a lack of notification; was reassured by Attorney Seiter that all letters have been sent so he is very concerned; N. Waterbury said he now requests to physically see the certified mail cards. Chairwoman Weber said she questioned it because she was sitting next to one neighbor who said he had not been notified and that she was told that they did not need to be notified because it was not part of our local law but Chairwoman Weber said she thought it was minimally part of past practice, if not, part of the law. Councilor Trudell said if it's not in our local law, could we require that as a condition. Chairwoman Weber said there was discussion about the distance of properties to be notified. Chairwoman Weber said the trees they've planted as part of the screen have died or have been taken over by weeds. N. Waterbury said the boards can review the stipulations to which the company agreed. Chairwoman Weber said she would like to forward a recommendation to the ZBA about discussing a moratorium on renewable energy systems to review our local energy law. Councilor Toth said to tie it into the comprehensive plan timing. Chairwoman Weber said that she thought that if a company was interested in an industrial park that they would provide the engineered septic or is it all part of negotiation? Councilor Toth said it's all part of the package and they will look for sewer, water, and electricity, which makes it worth it to increase capacity for the town. Councilor Toth said that by reviewing our land use map, referencing floating industrial zones, designating specific parcels for different uses. N. Waterbury said he would like to have it documented formally. Councilor Trudell will write up an inner office memo to notify the ZBA and present it to both boards. Councilor Toth said let both boards discuss timeframe possibilities and reconvene. Chairwoman Weber said it is something the town really needs to do to have time to update the local law, Councilor Toth agreed, adding that a lot of outdated policies need to be revisited. Councilor Toth added that the land use map needs to be done by end of September. Chairwoman Weber said to see if they can come up with a couple dates in September. Councilor Toth said they need to figure out a working committee with someone to facilitate it. Councilor Toth is willing to come to the first meeting and help but can't facilitate the committee. Councilor Toth said it needs review, even if no changes are made. Chairwoman Weber said it would be nice if it were a person from each board. Councilor Toth said this board and zoning boards are both well versed in the zoning law. N. Waterbury recalled having two committee members from each board and that the board did identify people. Councilor Trudell said she had agreed to be on it and still is. N. Waterbury said he will ask the ZBA again. Councilor Toth said to let the committee decide what's convenient for them. Councilor Davies-Buckley said she may remember also having volunteered and is still willing. Councilor Davies-Buckley said in the energy systems law, section 5ive page 11- read aloud that notification by mail is required of the public hearing. Chairwoman Weber said the board should compile a file on the solar farm on RIC for reference.

Chairwoman Weber said Oswego County is swampy, which prevents wide-open fields. Chairwoman Weber said we need to be on top of the DEC wetland information. Chairwoman Weber said it makes the landowner being responsible for application for jurisdictional agency. N. Waterbury recalled Laselle reporting that the DEC told him there is a backlog of applications and that the DEC was not going to have a problem with the town proceeding without hearing from the DEC. Chairwoman Weber said there's no proof of that being permissive. Chairwoman Weber said that when rules change, it can become a serious impact on the town given our geography.

Councilor Trudell and Councilor Davies-Buckley will reach out to N. Waterbury and the other two members of the review committee for the land use map. N. Waterbury believes the other members are Yawman and Bryant.

A motion was made by Councilor Toth, seconded by Councilor Trudell to adjourn at 7:49 pm. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 ayes: Davies-Buckley, Toth, Trudell, Weber and 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Wild
Town Clerk