

Meeting Minutes September 11th, 2024

At a regular scheduled meeting of the Planning Board of the Town of Mentz held in the municipal building, located at 14 Sponable Drive, Mentz, NY 13140 at 7:00PM, the following were present:

Chairman: Fred Whiting

Member: Richard Burke
Member: Laura Torres
Member: Doug Wilson

Clerk: Caitlin Bacon

Public present: Michael Gray, Steve Siracusa, Becky Siracusa, David Lipiska, Joyce Decker, Donna Trumble, Polly Lyn Davies, Lori Siracusa, Bill Applebee, Brandon Magill, Damon Ritter, Robert Hadden, Martha Robinson

Chairman Whiting called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present followed by a moment of silence.

Chairman Whiting stated that there was no new communications and no new business.

Chairman Whiting moved to old business stating that after a discussion with the Town Attorney, a public hearing, a vote that passed, the resolution for the Solar Farm on North Main Street will continue as planned and move forward.

Members of the public started making comments such as disregarding the solar regulations and town zoning laws.

Chairman Whiting made a motion that the Solar Farm on Main Street will continue as planned.

Member Burke seconded.

All in favor: 3-1

Nay: Member Wilson

Chairman Whiting announced that there was no other business.

Public present questioned why the attorney was not here to explain why the vote passed.

Chairman Whiting stated that this is not a public hearing, that all these questions and comments were reviewed during that meeting.

Public present Ms. Lori Siracusa questioned how this project is benefiting the Town. How is she going to explain to the woman that has her little children play in the driveway where the new solar field drive will be near.

Chairman Whiting stated that this is not a public hearing, that they are not going to argue with members of the public when this project has been passed and the public hearing all these questions were answered.

Public Present Ms. Lori Siracusa announced that the citizens of the town are going to get together and hire an attorney and review what the Planning Board is doing.

Chairman Whiting stated that this is not a public hearing, but if anyone is interested in filling a seat on the board to make a difference, please apply, Chairman Whiting then asked that all public comments cease so that they could continue their business.

Public present Mr. Gray then asked what happened at the Town Board meeting because he was told he would be an alternate, he questioned why they would make him an alternate if the position was still not filled. Chairman Whiting stated he was told nothing by the Town Board of even alternates being appointed and would research the issue.

Public present Mr. Ritter stood and said, "You're a FU*censored for use of swear word*ING worthless toenail", directed at Chairman Whiting and exited the board meeting at 7:04PM.

Members of the public then started a conversation stating that any decision the Planning Board makes can be overturned by a referendum. Member Wilson questioned what the process is. Public present Ms. Davies stated that 5% of the town is required for the process. Chairman Whiting encouraged the public to do what they felt was necessary, but at this moment it is a moot point, and he would like to continue with the meeting.

Public present Mr. Applebee stood and pointed at Chairman Whiting and stated that he has "awful leadership and he deserves everything you've got coming to you" and that he agrees with everything the "other guy said" and exited the planning board meeting at 7:07PM.

Members of the public then started to continue to have a conversation. Planning Board Clerk Bacon requested the public to end their conversation and let the Planning Board continue with their agenda. Public present Ms. Lori Siracusa made the comment that there was nothing more on the agenda, per Clerk Bacons opening statement of one item on the agenda as they signed in prior to the board meeting starting. Planning Board Clerk Bacon stated that she was not going to argue about the agenda, as there is still business to continue, such as meeting minutes review. Planning Board Clerk Bacon stated that they are more than welcome to have their conversations, but to please exit the meeting so that the Planning Board can continue. Public present Ms. Lori Siracusa announced her displeasure of not being able to talk and she would be talking to the higher ups about Planning Board Clerk Bacon's request.

Chairman Whiting proposed a motion to accept the meeting minutes from prior Planning Board meeting, August 14th, 2024, to be approved.

After reviewing the minutes, a motion to approve meeting minutes dated August 14th, 2024, was made by Member Torres.

Motion was seconded by Member Burke.

All in favor 4-0.

Public present Ms. Lori Siracusa and Mr. Hadden exited the Planning Board meeting at 7:09PM.

Chairman Whiting questioned the Planning Board if there was anything else to discuss. Nothing else to discuss.

Next scheduled Planning Board meeting is October 9th, 2024.

Motion to adjourn the regularly scheduled Planning Board Meeting on September 11th, 2024, was made by Member Torres.

Motion was seconded by Chairman Whiting.

All in favor 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:11PM