

Meeting Minutes November 8th, 2023

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, following were present:

Acting Chairman: Doug Wilson

Member: Richard Burke

Member: George Ackley

Clerk: Caitlin Bacon

Code Enforcement Officer (CEO): Jay Moose

Public Present: Barbara Clance, Wilfred Nieves, Martin Willex, Steve Siracusa, Becky Siracusa, Michele Lakota

In Chairman Whiting's absence, Acting Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:17PM, the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

Acting Chairman Wilson proposed a motion to accept the meeting minutes from prior Planning Board meeting, November 1st, 2023, to be approved.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes dated November 1st, 2023, by Acting Chairman Wilson.

Motion was seconded by Member Burke.

All in favor 3-0.

First item to discuss is the Solar farm project on North Main Street.

A question of Lead Agency was brought up.

Public present Wilfred Nieves updated the Planning Board of changes to the project and current reports that are currently underway.

CEO Moose entered the Planning Board Meeting at 7:23PM.

The Planning Board and Mr. Nieves discussed lead agency, what that meant, what is required of the role and how it affects the project.

Discussion of Fire Chief review, public hearing requirements, SEQ, special use permits, and county involvement was had.

Members questioned how or why this project would be beneficial to the community. Mr. Nieves explained that community solar will save ten percent on their energy bill, there are tax benefits, and the land will be coded differently, so taxes on the land itself will increase as well. A PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program was discussed.

Motion to become lead agency on the Solar Farm Project on North Main Street was proposed by Member Burke.

Motion was seconded by Acting Chairman Wilson.

All in favor 3-0.

Directions for what was required next were given.

Acting Chairman Wilson questioned the Planning Board if there was anything else to discuss. No other business to discuss.

Next meeting, the Planning Board discussed the possibility of having the public hearing for the Solar Farm project, it was agreed upon to have the next scheduled meeting and public hearing regarding the project. The public hearing announcement will be published. Next scheduled Planning Board meeting is December 13th, 2023.

Motion to adjourn the regular scheduled Planning Board Meeting on November 8th, 2023, made by Acting Chairman Wilson.

Motion was seconded by Member Burke.

All in favor: All 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25PM

Caitlin Bacon

Planning Board Clerk Bacon