

## Saugerties Comprehensive Planning Committee

### 6-23-16 Regular Meeting: Minutes

Members present: Pat Fitzsimmons, Chair; Carmen Gramoglia, Carol Ann Mayone, Steve Hubbard, Barry Benepe, Susan Weeks and Naomi Rothberg (Secretary). Leeanne Thornton attended as liaison to the Town Board. Town Board member Jimmy Bruno attended as a guest and consultant. The minutes were taken by Naomi.

Minutes for 5-26-16 were amended to include a paragraph about Barry's discussion of adding reference to Complete Streets to the Subdivision Law.

Leeanne reported on the progress being made turning the Bristol Beach shoreline property into a town park. The next step is a topographical study to assess costs of different suggested access points, also application for additional grants. Plans include restoration of the brick building on the site so it can be an educational center, development of the beach, a docking area, hiking trails, and a living museum including kilns. There will be no cost to taxpayers. The Palisades is giving the land to the Town on lease for 20 years. She also reported that Town Board member Dan Ellsworth had complimented the Board on the zoning law changes allowing for solar development. Public hearings on the changes will be held August 17 and September 7. She said there will be some zoning map changes from high density to moderate and some for the recreational business district. She also spoke about a shared service agreement between the highway departments of Saugerties and other municipalities to borrow or rent machinery and for the provision of services.

Pat then asked Jimmy Bruno to respond to our letter asking if there was any objection to our going forward on amendments to the Subdivision Law. Jimmy said he was concerned that our changes might make things too complicated and difficult, both for the Planning Board and for potential developers, especially if a lot of mandates are imposed with regard to things like Complete Streets and recreational areas. Pat answered that we had no intention of going overboard and requiring sidewalks and community recreational areas in every development. Barry added that we don't intend to dictate how Complete Streets objectives should be met, just that the Planning Board be aware that pedestrians and bicyclists use streets in developments as well as on other roads. Jimmy said he was fine with incorporating reference to Complete Street goals as long as there was flexibility allowing for individual project decisions.

In further discussion, Jimmy said that the Police Chief doesn't want open space left for recreation because it's too much to patrol. Barry answered that he was interested in allowing for the kind of recreation built into any community –flying a kite, for example, and not in the sorts of things that required patrol. Barry said he also didn't want the work the Town did on biodiversity and other environmental issues to be ignored by the Planning Board, and so he wanted reference to these things in the regulations. Jimmy answered that that was fine and that was what Planning Board workshops were for.

There was then discussion about when to get the public involved in development plans: it was agreed that too soon creates contention and confusion, but it should be sooner than at present so that changes to a development's plans can be made, if necessary, earlier than the final public hearings. Leeanne suggested that a sign be posted on Ulster Avenue that would give the times and dates of board meetings.

Jimmy was thanked for his participation. He said he was comfortable with the direction we were going and would be willing to attend future meetings on the subject.

Pat said we would continue with Subdivision at the next meeting, in September. He made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and passed.

The next regular meeting will be September 22 in the Town Hall Building Conference Room at 7 pm.