

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
VILAGE OF AVON PLANNING BOARD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023
7:00 PM; VILLAGE HALL**

I. ATTENDANCE

Paul M. Drozdziel, Chairman
John Gibson
Kelley Tonra

STAFF

Patrick McCormick, Village Board Liaison
Gary Margiotta, Secretary

ABSENT

Marilyn Borkhuis
Robert C. Hayes

QUORUM, 3 Present, 2 Absent

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Gibson moved for approval of the minutes of December 20, 2022, seconded by Tonra. Voting in favor were: Drozdziel, Gibson and Tonra. Voting against were: none.

CARRIED, 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Solar Projects

Gibson & Tonra, Committee Co-Chairs

Committee composition:

Gibson, Planning Board
Tonra, Planning Board
McCormick, Village Board
John Marks, Community Member Volunteer

Christopher Conine had agreed to round out the committee, Gibson told members. Conine would represent the Village's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

What should the committee's charge be? Drozdziel asked.

To develop a solar code for the Village of Avon, Gibson answered.

And to determine what Village residents wanted and what they didn't want, Tonra added.

Rob Richardson, the Clean Energy Communities Coordinator for the Genesee/Finger Lakes Planning Council of Rochester, had met with the Village and Planning Boards October 24 and he'd provided a *Model Solar Energy Local Law*. The Town of Lima's solar energy legislation had been circulated as well.

Drozdziel cautioned Tonra and Gibson not to *"dive into the nitty gritty."* The committee might better draft a framework and provide that to the Village Board, an outline covering ground, roof and building mounted solar energy systems.

Drozdziel suggested the committee start by examining the Village's Zoning Map. The Village had 10 zoning classifications:

- Agricultural (AG)
- Village Residential (VR)
- Multi-Family Residential (MFR)
- Combination Business (CB)
- Village Business (VB)
- General Business (GB)
- Light Industrial (LI)
- Planned Residential Development District (PRDD)
- Special Flood Hazard Overlay (FO)
- Utility Easements/Rail Lines

Tap Expert Resources

After which, it might be good to talk with Mary Underhill, a Planner with Livingston County's Planning Department, Drozdziel suggested, tap on her knowledge.

Would she come after hours or would the committee have to arrange to meet with her during business hours? Tonra wondered.

Drozdziel believed Underhill had come to night meetings before, but he reinforced the notion of kicking off by having someone in, but advised not holding off if Underhill couldn't make their first meeting.

Lance Brabant from the Village's engineering consulting firm, the MRB Group, and Village Code Enforcement Officer Andy Anderson might be other expert resources with whom the committee could talk.

The New York State Building and Construction Code likely covered some solar energy systems and Anderson could brief the committee on them, Drozdziel remarked. The Village had approved half-a-dozen solar projects over the past five years:

- Eric & Jessica Schneider at 200 Ross Lane in April 2022
- Avon Park Theater at 71 Genesee Street in July 2022
- David & Sarah Botts at 172 D'Angelo Parkway in March 2021
- Juan Cobas & Jessie Donaldson at 128 South Avenue in July 2020
- James Hartke at 420 High Acres in September 2020
- William Christiano at 14 Fairlea Manor in October 2018

Solar panel maintenance and the preservation of neighborhood aesthetics were other considerations the committee should address, Tonra noted.

How do solar energy systems fit in with the Village's Comprehensive Plan? Drozdziel asked, adding that might be another place to start.

Height and setbacks would be other factors to consider, Gibson said.

Meeting Schedule

Tonra and Gibson set the committee's first meeting for 6:30 PM Tuesday, January 31, at Village Hall and would try and meet every two weeks thereafter. Gibson said he would contact Underhill and Brabant.

**2023 Boot Camp Around the Corner;
Solar Projects Session to be Offered**

The law firm, Hancock Estabrook, and the MRB Group were offering a free annual training program again this year, Drozdziel told members, each program would be provided remotely on the fourth Thursday of each month:

Thursday, January 26, *Getting it Together* – the basics of running a meeting

Thursday, February 23, *Who's On First?* – the roles of Planning and Zoning Boards in Community Development

Thursday, March 23, *Now What?* – managing the development of solar projects after planning and zoning approvals

Thursday, April 27, *The Power of Doing a Proper SEQR Review* – SEQR Review

Thursday, May 25, *Financing Your Future* – municipal debt issuance

Thursday, June 22, *Beyond Euclid* – specialized zoning tools for local governments

Thursday, July 27, *The Other Green Development* – the next phase of cannabis: local regulatory tools

Thursday, October 26, *What Not to Say and What Really Not to Do* – preventing sexual harassment in the workplace

Thursday, December 14, *Santa's Naughty and Nice List* – the year in review

An RSVP was required for training credits.

Town Hall Renovations

Renovations were progressing at Town Hall, Drozdziel reported. Court and Town Board meetings would be shifted to Village Hall as of February 1 while the work was underway. A ribbon-cutting was anticipated at the end of May.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing pending.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Tonra moved for adjournment at 8:10 PM, seconded by Gibson. Voting in favor were: Drozdziel, Gibson and Tonra. Voting against were: none.

CARRIED, 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Gary Margiotta
Secretary