

Minutes of the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board
Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Sandy Creek Town Hall

Members present: Frank Dixon, Bill Joyce, Richard Machemer, Pat Machemer, Sybil Cummins and Shirley Rice; Member missing: Larry Rice

Vice Chair Frank Dixon called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pat Machemer made a motion to accept the minutes of 2/2/22 as presented, seconded by Frank Dixon. All voted in the affirmative and the motion was passed.

Correspondence was limited to the minutes of the February meeting of the Sandy Creek Town Board.

Bill Joyce gave the Treasurer's report noting that the only expenditures were for salaries of \$92.35 per board member and \$438.66 for Bill Joyce and EFTPS of \$164.48 for the past month. The account holds a balance of \$1,640.04 Bill further reported that there has been no transfer of funds into the Planning Board account from the Town of Sandy Creek. He said that Megan Sprague would look into this in the next couple of days to determine when this will occur. The Planning Board would like to move forward with the purchase of a new computer, but cannot until the funds for the current fiscal year are transferred from the Town into the account.

A discussion followed concerning the language for a proposed six month moratorium on Solar Projects in the Village of Sandy Creek. Bill brought three separate drafts of moratoria from different sources for the Board to review. The first was from the Town of Parish which appears to have been only draft language. It provided the Board with a basic overview of potential language, however it would appear to have been drafted in response to safety concerns that the Town of Parish was facing as it repeatedly referred to safety issues in the installation of projects as well as projects completed. The second piece was provided by the Tug Hill Commission as boilerplate language for the moratorium of Solar, Wind and Biomass projects. This would appear to focus on "unsuitable areas" and "lots without adequate dimensional regulations in place." This type of language is directed towards a municipality with zoning which the Village of Sandy Creek does not have. In both the Parish draft and the draft from the Tug Hill Commission, there are good definitions, applications, severability and effective date sections that may be considered for use in the proposed draft for the Village of Sandy Creek. Finally, Bill presented a draft copy of a local law for the Town of Farmington, NY from 2017. While this also deals with issues of zoning and special permits, it would appear that Farmington has experienced many of the same issues of concern as the Village of Sandy Creek. Namely, that the solar projects completed and proposed do not entirely satisfy the adopted Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Farmington and that a moratorium was needed in order to provide the Town with time needed to review their Solar Law in order to ensure the protection of the character of the community. As the goal of the Sandy Creek Planning Board is to work towards the protection of the environment and the character of the community, this language appears to more closely fit those goals.

After lengthy discussion it was determined that it would be best for Bill to incorporate the language proscribed by the Board from these three drafts into a single moratorium proposal to be reviewed by the Planning Board at the next scheduled meeting in April. Should that draft be considered complete, it will then be advanced to the Village Board for their consideration.

With no further business before the Board, a motion was made by Sybil Cummins and seconded by Shirley Rice to adjourn. The motion was passed by unanimous vote and the Board adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary - Sybil Cummins