

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF ST. ARMAND
July 16, 2013

A Special Board meeting of the Town Board of St. Armand was held on the above date at the Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY.

PRESENT: Town Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr., Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone, Councilperson Donald Amell, Councilperson Jennifer Fuller, Councilperson Earl J. Dakin, Town Clerk Davina Thurston, Code Enforcement Officer Robert Drosdowich

GUESTS: Patrick Finnegan, Alexandra Gill – Zoning Committee Members
Richard Stavenhagen, Gene Reynolds, Mary Reynolds, Ray Tempestilli, Diane Chase, Tyler Chase, Mark McCarty

Notice was sent to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise regarding this meeting.

Town Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr. called the board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Supervisor Whitson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Whitson asked each individual in the room to stand up and introduce themselves. Once this was done, Supervisor Whitson spoke of the legal issues involved with zoning. Supervisor Whitson then asked Patrick Finnegan to present his ideas for the zoning of the Town.

Mr. Finnegan spoke of, and discussion with the Board and audience members ensued, regarding the following issues: the pyramid idea, mission statement for the Committee, state laws, local laws, the role of code enforcement and the health officers, dead restrictions, village of Bloomingdale Zoning, owners and tenants, zone areas, procedures for violations, NYS property management laws, DEC and ENCON enforcement, and APA restrictions. Mr. Finnegan and Town Clerk Davina Thurston also spoke about the 2010 census and the number of households and residents in the area.

Deputy Supervisor Grimone spoke regarding restrictive deeds, and how they cannot be relied upon, as they are difficult to enforce. Sam then spoke of the vision for the Town, what is conducive to protect the residents, keep property values stable, encourage people to move into and build in the Town of St. Armand, but something that will protect people, not restrict them.

Supervisor Whitson spoke regarding zoning laws, how they can be more restrictive than local laws. Discussion ensued regarding public comments and having the public vote on this issue. Discussion continued regarding having an appointed, volunteer Grievance/Variance Committee for the zoning or local planning laws, additional fees and taxes that could be incurred, restriction of freedoms, too many laws, the constitution, child molesters, speeding, rights of the people, etc.

At times during this meeting, each guest spoke regarding specific concerns they had. Some of the discussion was heated, lengthy and argumentative. Supervisor Whitson and Deputy Supervisor Grimone attempted to keep the meeting civil and focused on the zoning and planning for the Town.

Town Clerk Davina Thurston volunteered to provide the Board, and any resident, information about the issues that have been raised. It was agreed that Davina would create an informational packet and present it at the next Regular Board Meeting on August 13, 2013. It was decided that the next Zoning Committee Meeting would take place on August 20, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Bloomingdale Town Hall.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Deputy Supervisor Grimone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilpersons Dakin and Fuller seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

I, Davina M. Thurston, Town Clerk for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Special Board meeting minutes held on the above-referenced date.

Davina M. Thurston
St. Armand Town Clerk

July 16, 2013