

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD PLANNING BOARD**

JANUARY 20, 2009

The Special Meeting was called to order by Chairman Hans Arnold at 5:30 P.M. at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board Members present were Jerome Donovan, Ellen Rayhill, Rodger Reynolds, and Peggy Rotton. Board Members absent: Bob Wood and Bob Imobersteg. Also in attendance were Town Supervisor Earle Reed, Councilman David Reynolds, Town Planner Kurt L. Schwenzfeier, AICP; Codes Enforcement Officer Joseph Booth, Superintendent of Highways Rick Sherman, and Dory Shaw, Secretary.

Chairman Arnold called this meeting to review the agenda format for the GEIS Public Workshop, Saturday, January 24, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. at the Willowvale Fire Co., Inc., 3459 Oneida Street, Chadwicks, New York. **1)** get an agreement on Planning Board, Town Board and the Town's part at this meeting. Board Member Donovan has reviewed the latest draft sent by peter j. smith consultants and he has some issues which have been identified by the consultants (the consultants are out of Town until the end of the week). Chairman Arnold has a couple of items he found that he feels are significant and he would like an errata sheet, but doesn't think any of the changes are going to be able to get incorporated into a new document by this meeting; and **2)** go over the approach that we want to take on January 24th.

Chairman Arnold felt he has absorbed the input from the public from the March 8, 2008 meeting and would welcome any additional comments.

At this time, Chairman Arnold presented a draft agenda for the GEIS meeting that he would like to discuss with the Board Members and get their comments, i.e.,

- Opening remarks
- Purpose of the GEIS
- Number of meetings held/scoping
- What the Planning Board has done since the March 8, 2008 meeting in Chadwicks

It was noted that storm water is a topic that was addressed at the March 8, 2008 meeting. The Board Members would like this item addressed after the GEIS segment of this meeting. Some storm water areas have been prioritized and acknowledged as issues. Reference was made to the model 2-5, 5-10 acre lots; zoning and how that would affect storm water runoff. The Town Engineer, Highway Superintendent and Mr. Curt Nicholls

of Shumaker Engineering will be present to address the public's concerns on storm water after the GEIS presentation – maps will be available for review.

Board Member Rotton stated people feel there is flooding with more population density in this area. She also suggested defining scoping to the public and exactly what it means. She expressed concerns regarding the Ag issues and grant application – this will be addressed. Town Planner Schwenzfeier said a decision should be made sometime in August 2009 from the NYS Ag & Markets on whether the grant is approved or not.

The Planning Board wants the public to fully understand why the Generic Environmental Impact Statement is important in this southern area of the Town (the GEIS allows for mitigation or fees in lieu of mitigation to occur); what has progressed from the number of meetings held, i.e., road alignments and rotaries, growth boundary changes and alternatives for preserving Agricultural lands to name a few.

Board Member Donovan wanted to make sure this meeting is with the understanding of what is in the document. There is a wealth of information that supports what this Board is doing and many of the recommendations that may come out of this GEIS are reflective of the public's opinion in the survey taken for the Comprehensive Plan.

Board Member Rayhill mentioned that she would like the public to be informed as to the meaning of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement – to simplify what this means with the alternatives being presented. She further stated she would like the public to be clear as to why there are alternatives and when we decide on an alternative, how we arrived at choosing it. This all started with a Comprehensive Plan and the ideas behind the alternatives for the GEIS area came from public input to that Comprehensive Plan. We need to come out of this meeting with an alternative and then hope to do zoning changes which would be an affect of this. We don't adopt the zoning but it is out duty to come up with recommendations.

Board Member Reynolds agrees with the above and feels the public is key – people need to know why this GEIS is requested for the area.

Town Supervisor Earle Reed and Councilman David Reynolds agree with the approach and proposed agenda for this GEIS meeting, and that the consultants be recognized through a moderator (Chairman Hans Arnold will be the moderator). Board Member Jerome Donovan, having been raised in Chadwicks, will be available to assist.

Town Planner Schwenzfeier stated that he has received a few telephone calls from people who cannot attend, but he will bring them up-to-date next week.

Discussion was held on a mobile home park and the action proposed in the report. The issue raised is that it is in the flood plain. Codes Enforcement Officer Booth stated that the mobile homes are permissible as long as they are flood proofed. He has had discussions with the owner of the park regarding the condition of some of the homes as well as meetings and discussions with the NYSDEC. Further discussion was held regarding any possible involvement the Town may have regarding this park.

Board Member Donovan referred to the adoption of this Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the southern area of the Town and procedures involved. The Planning Board is Lead Agency. It was stated that we would check with the consultants.

Chairman Hans Arnold will be in contact with the consultants before this Public Workshop.

The February meeting date was discussed. Secretary Dory Shaw will contact the Board Members regarding this.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Shaw, Secretary
Planning Board

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