

PLANNING BOARD
Town of Kirkwood
70 Crescent Drive
Kirkwood, NY 13795

March 14, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Present: Marchie Diffendorf, Chairman Gina Middleton, Attorney
 Jim Bukowski, Member Chad Moran, Building & Code Inspector
 Matt Williams, Associate Member Mike Maciak, Associate Member
 Gordie Woolbaugh, Member
 Dan Wasson, Member

Absent: Kevin Balachick, Member

Chairman Diffendorf called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 meeting as submitted.

All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE TOWN BOARD – BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS:

Chairman Diffendorf introduced Gina Middleton as the new attorney to the board members.

Chairman Diffendorf explained that the Town currently doesn't have a law for battery storage and there are no applications for it either but we want to be prepared. The Town Board is being pro-active on that. The Town Board wants the Planning Board to make a recommendation on this moratorium. A copy of the proposed Local Law had been distributed to the Planning Board members ahead of time for their review.

Ms. Middleton explained that in short it is just putting a 6-month hold so the Town has time to enact a law and analyze what should be enacted. This will prevent anyone from submitting any applications and moving forward.

Chairman Diffendorf stated we are just giving this our blessing. Ms. Middleton stated you are basically making a motion to recommend approval and if you have any comments.

Dan Wasson explained that on April 5th there is a seminar about this, battery energy storage systems, which may be a good thing for all of us to watch just to know what is being done statewide.

Lew Grubham commented that a committee has been set up to look at all three of these items. He discovered the battery storage by accident. He didn't know it existed. We have already had an inquiry about it. We have no zoning laws at all about it. There are sample laws for the battery storage and there is a lot of stuff coming down the pike and coming fast and we are not prepared, or any other town. He wants us prepared if it should happen. He will try to make sure the board gets any information that comes out.

Chairman Diffendorf asked if there has been an inquiry already and Supervisor Grubham stated yes, unofficial inquiry. There are some things that restrict, just by the way they work, the properties that could have them in Kirkwood. They have to be within a certain distance of the substation or they just don't work. He isn't sure the Town has a lot of properties that fits that. It could happen so we should be prepared.

Motion by Matt Williams and seconded by Jim Bukowski to recommend to the Town Board approval of the 6-month moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Roll Call Vote:	Jim Bukowski	Yes
	Matt Williams	Yes
	Gordie Woolbaugh	Yes
	Dan Wasson	Yes
	Chairman Diffendorf	Yes

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE TOWN BOARD – SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS AND WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS:

Chairman Diffendorf stated we have a couple of applications for solar but they haven't been submitted yet. We do have a solar law on the books now. The committee, that Lew mentioned earlier, got together and reviewed the solar law and we determined that we should have a moratorium on it and review it again because there are some things in there we weren't happy about. The wind energy, we did have in the past a small residential one up on Krager Road. We had the application and we wrote the law but it never went through.

Motion by Dan Wasson and seconded by Gordie Woolbaugh to recommend to the Town Board approval of a 6-month moratorium on Solar Energy Systems and Wind Energy Conversion Systems.

Roll Call Vote:	Jim Bukowski	Yes
	Matt Williams	Yes
	Gordie Woolbaugh	Yes
	Dan Wasson	Yes
	Chairman Diffendorf	Yes

Motion carried.

Dan Wasson asked if any applications submitted would come before the Planning Board and Chairman Diffendorf stated yes for site plan review.

Chairman Diffendorf explained that next month there isn't any applications for site plan review but Sarah Campbell, Hinmon, Howard, & Kattell, will be here to present warehousing that may go in at the racetrack. Right now, the way it looks there will be several zoning changes. Chad Moran stated four zoning changes. Chairman Diffendorf explained we will have to make a recommendation to the Town Board. The Town Board will get the applications for the zoning changes and they will send it to the Planning Board, if they want to, or they can deny it. What usually happens is they will send it to us for a recommendation and we make a recommendation one way or the other to the Town Board. They can accept it or reject our recommendation.

Page 3

March 14, 2022

Planning Board Meeting Minutes

There will be public hearings on it. Chad Moran stated she is going to submit an informal application so everyone will have an idea of what is going to happen. Chairman Diffendorf stated access to it will be on Grossett Drive. They will build a road from there over to the racetrack. There won't be any more traffic on Francis Street or Crescent Drive. There has been a traffic study done.

Motion by Matt Williams and seconded by Gordie Woolbaugh to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Kay Sullivan
Secretary, Kirkwood Planning Board

cc: Planning Board Members
Kelley Diffendorf
John Finch, Jr.
Chad Moran
Scott Snyder
Katie Legg
Bob McKertich