

PITTSFORD ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Minutes
June 6, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Heinzelman, Jim Pippin, Jackie Ebner, Caroline Kilmer, Julie Marcellus, Hali Buckley

ABSENT: Lindsay Clark

OTHERS PRESENT: April Zurowski, Planning Department Assistant, Doug DeRue, Director of Planning, Zoning, and Development, Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Liaison

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 2

Chairman Steve Heinzelman opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Environmental Board Member Jackie Ebner made a motion to approve the minutes of May 2, 2022, seconded by Environmental Board Member Jim Pippin. The minutes were approved following a unanimous voice vote.

NY STRETCH CODE: Josh Stack

Josh Stack, of Northeast Green Building Consulting, LLC, spoke about NYS Stretch Energy Code to the Board. He gave the Board a comparison document for NYS Stretch Code versus currently adopted NYS Building Code. He stated that the Stretch Code is an additional energy code to allow municipalities to enforce a more strict building code. The NYS Building Code is typically updated every 3 years. Each update includes advances towards the previous Stretch Code revisions. The average increased cost to use Stretch Code when building a home is \$2,000-\$4,000 more than if the home was built according to NYS Building Code. Mr. Stack stated that many builders and contractors have expressed opposition to Stretch Code. If adopted, the Town would gain the ability to grant variances for NYS Stretch Code modifications.

Town Board member Stephanie Townsend asked why some municipalities choose to opt out of ventilation provisions suggested by Stretch Code. Mr. Stack stated that some opt out due to up-front costs associated with the provision. Mr. DeRue asked Mr. Stack to address how variances would be addressed. Mr. Stack stated that NYSERDA allows the jurisdiction to decide whether variances will be granted internally or through a public hearing.

Chairman Heinzelman asked Mr. Stack how the majority of municipalities feel about Stretch Code adoption. Mr. Stack stated that he has seen mixed reactions. Sometimes communities adopt the code for grants. Others believe Stretch Code can help the community meet their climate goals and reduce greenhouse gasses. He stated that most builders are strongly opposed. Mr. Stack stated that he doesn't think the additional code adds to builder stress. Chairman Heinzelman asked how homeowners feel about the code. Mr. Stack stated that homeowners don't pay much attention to the building code adjustments.

Board Member Jackie Ebner asked Mr. Stack to address how building inspectors feel about the code. Mr. Stack stated that free training is available to building inspectors. He has seen some apprehension from inspectors. The code does not implement any additional inspections and requires a similar plan review.

Board Member Jackie Ebner asked what kind of project would trigger Stretch Code review. Mr. Stack stated that any project that would require a building permit would require Stretch Code review.

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Chairman Heinzelman asked Mr. Stack to address how Stretch Code compares to future Building Code. Mr. Stack stated that Building Code is adapted every three years and typically includes Stretch Code revisions from the previous years. Stretch Code is intended to be surpassed.

TOWN BOARD UPDATE: Stephanie Townsend, Town Board Member

Town Board Member Townsend asked Ms. Zurowski to give the Board an update on the status of the Town's Climate Smart Communities designation application. Ms. Zurowski stated that the Town has received comments requesting revisions to the application. The Town is preparing to resubmit for the July 8th deadline.

Board Member Ebner stated that the Clean Energy Communities heating and cooling campaign event is scheduled for June 30th. A meeting for municipal operations and greenhouse gas inventory has also been scheduled.

Town Board Member Townsend asked the Board to review the updated draft tree ordinance. Mr. DeRue stated that amendments were considered, but attempting to create a code that won't require new permits or code enforcement is quite challenging. The Town has already adopted a landscape alteration permit.

Board Member Kilmer asked Mr. DeRue to address why the draft states that the Tree Board "may" advise the Town for plantings. Mr. DeRue stated that changing the verbiage implies responsibility that it must happen, but that may be too strict from simple plantings.

Board Member Marcellus asked when the Tree Board would be asked to advise. Mr. DeRue stated that the Board would likely be asked before major plantings, likely in the Spring and Fall.

Board Member Kilmer asked what the next step is to adopt the tree ordinance. Town Board Member Townsend stated that the draft is not on the Town Board agenda, but is proposed for the late June meeting.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE: Doug DeRue, Staff Liaison

Mr. DeRue stated that the Verizon Wireless stealth tree facility is moving slow, but is still ongoing. There is a small possibility for an alternate site.

Mr. DeRue stated that St. John Fisher College is proposing a small indoor practice facility near the Dugan Yard fields. They are planning to remove approximately 15 trees for the proposed road, but will add quite a few new trees to serve as a buffer to neighbors.

Mr. DeRue stated that 717 Stone Rd and 5 Fizmot Glen is proposing a re-subdivision. No new lots or new construction is proposed. The Planning Board has been advised to consider a trail connection. Chairman Heinzelman expressed his support for a trail connection in the area.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS:

Chairman Heinzelman adjourned the meeting at 8:12PM.

Respectfully,

April Zurowski
Secretary to the Environmental Board