

Town of Westerlo
Zoning Board Meeting
Westerlo, New York

Minutes of Date: September 26, 2016

Location: Westerlo Town Hall, Westerlo, New York 12193

Zoning Board Members: Chairperson Virginia Mangold, Wilfred VanIlderstine, Robert Beck, John Sefcik, Guy Weidman

Town Attorney: Aline D. Galgay, Esq. ; Zoning Administrator: Edwin Lawson

Present: Virginia Mangold, John Sefcik, Guy Weidman

Chairperson Virginia Mangold called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members reviewed the minutes of August 22, 2016 meeting. Virginia Mangold made a motion to accept minutes as written; John Sefcik seconded the motion. All voting members present in favor.

No Old Business

No New Business ...

With no new applications, the board discussed Solar systems and how other towns have placed regulations in their Town Law regarding Solar systems. In Westerlo, solar systems require building permits issued by the Town Code Enforcement Officer. Westerlo has no actual specific regs regarding solar farms, ground mounted solar systems nor large solar applications for businesses and how each may affect us in ways such as glare to drivers, even to air traffic, shadowing (on road ways), etc. Each solar application needs to be handled individually. We are finding that there is no specific ruling or law in Westerlo. Do we want or need restrictions on ground mounts e.g. height, allowed in front yards/hamlets ... all these concerns need to be handled individually and The Town needs to have regulations in order for all to be safely considered.

Virginia made note that solar farms may bring a loss of farm land which then can change the character of our community. This is something we need to carefully consider.

With Solar farms aggressively being installed in several surrounding towns, the ZBA is requesting a moratorium of no less than 9 months. It will take some time and several workshops to update Local Law No 3 of 2016. Virginia will contact the Town Board and request action at their next Town Board meeting on October 4, 2016.

Further, members discussed the seminar regarding the Local Government Fall Workshop scheduled for October 5th at HVCC. No ZBA member will attend. With no other business, Guy Weidman motioned to adjourn the meeting; Virginia seconded the motion. All members present in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by John Sefcik and Approved by Chair
Virginia A. Mangold
Virginia A. Mangold, Chairperson