Colden Planning Board Meeting

October 15, 2024

Planning Board Members Present:	Walt Kammer (Chairman), Dakota Fortune, Andrew Gow, George Reinhardt, John Riley, Cheryl Schenne, and Bobby Walker
Also Present:	Tom Dziulko (Fire Inspector/Asst Code – Enf. Officer),

Walt called the October 15, 2024 Planning Board Meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the courtroom at the Colden Town Hall.

The Board Members reviewed the July 16, 2024 minutes and Cheryl motioned to approve the minutes and John seconded and all were in favor.

Storage Containers

Walt reviewed the previous findings submitted by the Planning Board regarding storage containers. The Planning Board reviewed the short-term and long-term uses for storage containers. The Planning Board concurred that short-term containers would be for only 30 days that would require a building permit but without a fee. A fee would be applied past the 30 days. CEO's will determine the hardship and issue the building permit. Short-term and long-term storage container will not be habitable. The containers will need to meet accessory setbacks and have a sub-surface ability to support minimum of 6" crushed stone. The codes for flag-lots, front yard structure 50 ft, principal structure, and zoning districts will be reviewed for all building permits submitted.

Fees 2024

The Town Board asked the Planning Board to review the fees charged various permits and actions. Walt mentioned that the Planning Board had a past member review the fees and fines as compared to nearby rural towns in 2019. Walt asked for a volunteer to review the fees and Dakota volunteered. Walt suggested comparing Concord, Holland, and Colden and to enter the data in a chart. The Town Board also indicated that they will be defining some new fees as related to Dog and Kennel Licenses since the existing fees and fines do not reflect the situation properly,

and make for non-effective enforcement since there is no substantial fee for violations. When received the Planning Board will integrate it into our proposed updated fee schedule. The Planning Board will need to have the final recommendation at the December Planning Board meeting for adoption by the Town Board at the January 2025 Organizational Meeting.

Waste Management

The Town Board also reviewed Waste Management totes at the October meeting. Residents will receive a 90 gallon trash/garbage tote, and a 90 gallon recycling tote. At your door service will remain for Colden residents. The town won't be sending out seasonal newsletters, and all updates will be available on the town's website. Waste Management will produce a brochure and have it printed and mailed to all Town residents. It will define the schedule. Walt noted that the totes will NOT be distributed until the Spring of 2025 since delivery during the winter can be problematic. The existing service will continue until then.

Clean Energy

Walt reviewed the clean energy points received by the town. Walt mentioned that Tom (CEO) could take an energy training state changes clean energy program for 300 points. The Town of Colden needs additional points, possibly via a new Erie County incentive for community solar which would have the potential to reduce the Town's energy "delivery" costs by up to 10%. Walt also noted that NYSERDA has reduced the dollar value of our next stipend (assuming we get the required points) from $50,000 down to $40,000 points effective around 1Nov24. So they are lowering support to rural communities for some reason. Walt will present the data on this in the future.

Review

Walt will have the short-term rentals draft ready for the next Planning Board meeting.
The Planning Board will review Airbnb's as requested by the Town Board at a future Planning Board meeting.

Walt reminded the Planning Board members that a Planning and Zoning training will take place on Monday, October 28th, 2024 in Amherst, NY. A few Planning and Zoning Board members will attend the meeting.

Bobby motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM, and Cheryl seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Crystal Barrett