

TOWN OF OTEGO PLANNING BOARD
Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 20, 2024

Planning Board Members Present:	Lois Chernin, Mark Dye, Kathy Leahy, Harry Martin, Lonnie Ridgway
Planning Board Members Absent:	None
Planning Board Member Excused:	None
Planning Board Alternate Present:	David Sheldon - Excused
Planning Board Recording Secretary Present:	Colleen Bushnell
Codes Officer - Dan Wilber:	Present
Town Board Liaison – Jimmy Hamm:	Excused
Members of the Public:	2

The regular meeting of the Town of Otego Planning Board opened at 7:15 pm.

The minutes from the July 16, 2024 regular meeting were reviewed by members.

Motion made by Kathy Leahy, seconded by Lonnie Ridgway, to accept the minutes as corrected with August 20, 2024 as the next meeting. No discussion.

Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried.

Reports: Fromm Lois:

- Highway Department still working on Mill Creek road.
- The Town is still working on obtaining a truck.
- The Highway Department is looking for employees with CDL Licenses. The Town is willing to train.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Lois provided Board with packets of information regarding New York State statutes and solar laws. She also received information from a lawyer which she will provide to the Board.
- Lois was contacted by a realtor requesting information on solar regulations in Otego. The Planning Board must begin to review this issue and make decisions regarding it.
- There was much discussion regarding regulations on solar and wind power in New York State.
- Concerns with this issue are many: decommissioning of alternate power sources, the effects on land, etc.
- It was noted that the laws cannot be unreasonably burdensome.
- The Planning Board needs to review the packets provided as well as any other information they receive. This is just the start of what may be needed in the future. Discussion will begin at the next meeting.
- Our lawyer is researching these issues as well and will have information to provide to the Board members.
- This issue is for commercial alternate power installations, not for a homeowner's small-scale use.

- Lois again reminded the Board members that training of 4 hours must be completed prior to 2025. New York State is providing some training regarding "How to Deal with Climate Change in Your Zoning".

Privilege of the Floor: None

Next meeting: September 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Motion made by Harry Martin, seconded by Kathy Leahy, to adjourn the meeting. No discussion

Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Colleen Bushnell, Secretary