

GERMANTOWN PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2025

The meeting was held at the Town Hall with the following members in attendance: Chairman Garrett Montgomery, Kerrie Abela, Chris Brown, Simon Burstall, Jennifer Crawford, Benjamin Davidson and Lauren Williams. Town Attorney Corinne Smith and Town Engineer Adam Yagelski were in attendance for the matter of Twin Ponds Solar, LLC.

The meeting was opened at 7:08pm

Pledge of Allegiance

The minutes of January 23, 2025 were reviewed and on a motion by Kerrie, seconded by Ben, with all in favor and none opposed were accepted with the following amendments:

- P.1 Change timeframe to time frame
- P.1 Remove the word “with” after comply and add the word “with” after clarifying
- P.2 Change PILOG to PILOT
- P.3 Change “int hose” to “in those”
- Correct the spelling Kerry to Kerrie throughout minutes as needed

Public Hearings and New Business: There was no New Business or Public Hearings scheduled for the meeting and Chairman Montgomery stated that no public comments would be taken and thanked all on Zoom and in person for attending.

Old Business:

Twin Ponds Solar: returning before the board was Jutta Middel and Chad Dickason, applicants for the continued Site Plan and Special Use Permit review for a proposed ground mounted community solar farm to be located at the property located at 708 County Route 8.

The Chairman of the Board addressed the audience and stated the following: board members are well versed in the review of solar, engineering and agricultural laws and will make determinations with sound judgement, the Town Attorney, Town Board and Planning Board members are aware of mail circulations and inquiries as to member occupations and professional trainings and that they view these as assets and in full transparency and for clarification member Jennifer Crawford stated she has worked in the past, but not currently with applicant. Member Ben Davidson asked to address the board and stated that he would like to review the Host Agreement and wanted to motion to reopen the SEQR review and determination process if there is new or improper information specifically to ICSA: Inclusive Community Solar Adder, referring to Part 2 SEAF in that changing answers would then change community character answer to a positive declaration and determination and vote may have changed and it would not be proper if there is new information if public was not to benefit. Member Jen Crawford stated that as a member who brought it up during the review and public comment that the law should be recognized and does not state who is to benefit and in her opinion the information doesn't change the negative declaration decision in addition she stated at the beginning of the review process the applicant was a client of hers.

Motion is made by Chris to take a 5-minute recess to draft and add a condition to resolution defining a discount offer to property owners within 500 feet of the property boundary, seconded by Ben, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion is made by Kerrie to re-open the meeting, seconded by Ben, with all in favor and none opposed.

The Draft Resolution of the Site Plan and Special Use Permit was read by the Chairman, amendments will be made on Page 1: correcting "12525" to 12526 and Page 7: adding the definition of the discount offer to property owners within 500 feet of the property boundary, a copy of the resolution will be filed with the Town Clerk, Code Enforcement Officer, Town Board and Columbia County Planning Board and shall take effect immediately and on a motion by member Jennifer Crawford, Seconded by member Simon Burstall the question of the adoption of the Resolution was duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

Chairman Garrett Montgomery	YES
Member Kerrie Abela	NO
Member Chris Brown	YES
Member Simon Burstall	YES
Member Jennifer Crawford	YES
Member Benjamin Davidson	YES
Member Lauren Williams	NO

Other Business:

- The Chairman thanked the Town Attorney, Town Engineer, Applicant and Board for their thoroughness and vote
- Training was held and members who did not attend were encouraged to view training videos
- Kerrie Abela will not be in attendance for March and April meetings and will return in May
- Application received from Laura Sink for Gatherwild Membership Club may be on next agenda
- Member Jen suggested to draft recommendations for the TB and submit with the Resolution

On a motion made by Chris, seconded by Simon, with all in favor and none opposed the meeting was closed at 8:27pm.

Jami L. DelPozzo
Planning and Zoning Secretary

