

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING:
SITE REVIEW LAW AND FEE STRUCTURE
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL
FEBRUARY 20, 2013 @ 6:00 PM**

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilman Robert Seager
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski
Councilman William Karn
Highway Superintendent William Gardner
Deputy Supervisor John Isley
Town Clerk Shelley Entwistle

MEMBERS ABSENT

Supervisor William Hasenauer

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Deputy Supervisor John Isley. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Isley read the proposed fee schedule (please see attached).

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- Dave Ultsch questioned why a pole barn permit costs the same as a permit for a new home.
- Beth Roberts inquired as to what the actual purpose is for obtaining a building permit from the town. Deputy Supervisor Isley stated that permits allow the town to track development and place new structures on the assessment rolls. Councilwoman Kwasniewski added that public safety is also a reason for obtaining a permit. Planning Board Chairman Donald Graff also stated the cost of the permit is intended to offset some of the expense of the Codes Enforcement Officer. Planning Secretary Kim Kratzenberg stated that the Codes Department issues about 100 permits a year totaling approximately \$9000 in fees. Beth Roberts feels that the most important part of the permit is the fact that it gets improvements on the assessment roll, thereby providing the town with income in perpetuity. She stated that a drawback to an increased fee schedule is that people may not get a permit and therefore denying the increased assessment to the town's revenue.

- TJ Entwistle stated that one of his concerns is the scale of the fees in relation to each other. Code Officer Brad Smith stated that a state representative reviewed the fee schedule and found it to be in line with other municipalities. Beth Roberts stated that the town should not be concerned with what other towns are doing rather striving to make the permit process more user friendly. She feels this will stimulate economic growth in Forestport.
- TJ Entwistle suggested in response to offsetting the costs of the planning department that perhaps legal notices should be a separate category in the general budget.
- Councilman Karn inquired as to how many unpermitted projects took place in 2012. Brad Smith stated about 4 or 5. He believes this number to be low due to the mandatory \$250 fine for building without a permit.
- Dave Ultsch shifted the topic to the site review law. Deputy Supervisor Isley stated that the board would like to table the Site Review portion of the hearing for 30-60 days as the board members have not reviewed it at this point. Councilman Karn and Councilwoman Kwasniewski did add that they are willing to accept comments at this time however.
- Dave Ultsch raised a concern regarding the proposed Site Review Law in relation to the Comprehensive Plan. His understanding of the Comprehensive Plan is that it is a guideline for governing future growth in Forestport. His fear is that enacting the Site Review into law it will associately make the Comprehensive Plan law as well. This would be by virtue of the Site Review Law's reference to the Comprehensive Plan in article 2- Purpose. Both Attorney Riley and Gerry Ritter assured Mr. Ultsch this would not be the case.
- Dave Kardash raised concern over the permit fees for docks. Kayuta Lake landowners already pay a fee to the state and are additionally assessed for their docks. Paying a permit fee to the town seems like triple taxation.
- Jean VanValkenburg inquired as to whether RV restrictions in the proposed Site Review Law will nullify an agreement she has with the Adirondack Park Association regarding a specific parcel of lakefront property she owns. Attorney Riley assured her that her agreement would stand even if the proposed law is enacted. She went on to say that she is worried if they sell the property, the future owners will not have the benefit of the agreement because the property will have

changed hands. She additionally added that the proposed regulation limiting a RV to 30 calendar days of use on a single parcel per year may stunt tourism. Don Graff stated that the purpose of the regulation is to limit noise pollution and wastewater issues.

- Discussion also took place regarding sideline setbacks.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further comments the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm by Deputy Supervisor Isley.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley T. Entwistle
Forestport Town Clerk