



Town of Knox Planning Board

Established 1822

P.O. Box 56 • Knox, New York • 12107 • Phone 518-872-2551 • www.knoxny.org

Minutes: September 14, 2019

Present: Bob Price, Todd LaGrange, Betty Ketcham, Deb Nelson, Tom Wolfe, Kurt Johnson, Bill Pasquini

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Review of August Minutes

1. August minutes reviewed.

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes, Deb seconded it, all in favor.

Proposed Amendment of Town of Knox Zoning Or Hog/Swine Farming

1. Gary Kleppel, PhD, chair of the agriculture committee presented information regarding Hog/Swine farming.
 - a. Currently in the Town of Knox no one in the Ag district is allowed to farm more than 10 hog/swine or any number of hog/swine for sale, barter, etc. without a special use permit.
 - b. After careful consideration and research within the agriculture advisory committee, they came to the conclusion to make hog and swine farming the same as any other animal farming.
 - c. Proposed changes would be:
 - Article II section 20 of the zoning ordinance, remove the definition of Farm, Hog or Swine: A farm used for the raising of more than ten hogs; or raising any number of hogs for the purpose of sale, barter or exchange.
 - General Use Table on page 29, Article IV section 42, suggest getting rid of the line in the table that begins with 'Agricultural-swine or hog farm'
 - d. The proposed changes to the zoning ordinance would make hog or swine farming the same as any other animal farming within the Town of Knox.

2. Discussion amongst the Planning Board members regarding why this current zoning law may have been made and the problems that arose originally when hog and swine farming was allowed in the Town of Knox.
 - a. The basis of where the nuisance was defined in the Planning Law was based on hog farming. It was called the Good Neighbor Law.
3. Gary Kleppel made the point that most farmers who farm to sell any animals pay a lot of money to keep their farms up to date and clean, unlike some farms in the past. He also pointed out that there are 12 agencies for federal and state that have authority to handle problems that arise with any farms and complaints.
4. Tom asked all Planning Board members their thoughts about the proposed changes:
 - Bob- If the amendment is defined, he does not see a problem with the changes.
 - Todd: Ok with the proposal, thinks that it is being proactive.
 - Betty: Thinking about the future, feels putting restrictions on the proposal would cause less problems.
 - Deb: Agrees with the proposal but with conditions, for instance putting a restriction on the amount of hogs you could raise for sale.
 - Tom: Agrees with the proposal without changes to it.
 - Kurt: Agrees with the proposal, feels that there are laws in place to make sure the farms are running properly.
 - Bill: Agrees with the proposal without restrictions.
5. Comments from the audience:
 - a. Bridget McAuliffe spoke stating it could take years if a problem did occur for the agricultural agencies to take care of complaints. Also thinks that the town would be proactive to come up with certain guidelines and restrictions regarding hog/swine farming.
 - b. Ken Saddlemire spoke and feels that hog farming should be treated like any other livestock farming.

Tom made a motion to approve the proposed Amendment of The Town of Knox Zoning Ordinance Concerning Hog and Swine Farming, Bill seconded it. A vote was taken:

Bill: Yes

Kurt: Yes

Deb: No

Betty: No

Todd: Yes

Bob: Yes

Tom: Yes

Vote is 5 “Yes” and 2 “No”. The motion is passed.

Deb made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Next meeting to be held on October 10, 2019 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Knox Planning Board Secretary Tiffiny Snyder