

**PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF KNOX
ALBANY COUNTY
Established 1822**

PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2011

Present: Earl Barcomb, Dan Driscoll, Betty Ketcham, Bob Price, Brett Pulliam, Tom Wolfe

Meeting called to order at 1935.

The Board began by reviewing the **February 10 minutes**. A motion was made by Member Pulliam to approve the minutes as written, duly seconded by Member Wolfe and passed unanimously.

Chairman Price referenced an article in the Planning News publication. The article dealt with religious institutions that come into towns and wish to build a facility. **The article referenced the Religious Land Use and Institutional Purposes Act (RULIPA)**. This issue had come before the Board at one time and Chairman Price thought it important to make the Board aware of RULIPA in case this sort of thing is brought up again.

Member Driscoll pointed out that the DEC is revising the **Environmental Assessment Form (EAF)**. It is currently not available online. He sent them an email letting them know the Board is trying to use the EAF for a generic application and a lot of the questions are hard to answer in a generic application scenario. He suggested it would be useful if they set up a separate form to be used for generic purposes.

The Town of Berne has been working on a draft Comprehensive Plan. Member Driscoll says they have some beautiful maps included in the Comp Plan and that they are available on the Town of Berne website. He said they did a good job on water and water sheds but they didn't have a water shed map included. Dan emailed them to let them know where they could get the watershed maps for Berne.

Member Ketcham and Member Driscoll gave a presentation on **Graphical Information Systems (GIS)**. They demonstrated on different laptops running two different software programs the many different layers of information available that can be integrated into maps and surveys for planning purposes. There is a great deal of information available (i.e. wetlands, endangered species, fault lines, waterways, farmland, etc.). Everyone seemed very interested in the data available and the possibility of being able to use this information to make more informed decisions regarding land use requests going forward. Member Ketcham agreed to compile a list of resources available to the public. From that list the Board will discuss in the future which ones would be beneficial to add to the requirements. These resources would possibly be added to the website for easy access.

Upon a motion made by Member Barcomb and duly seconded by Member Pulliam, the meeting was adjourned at 2050.

The next meeting will be held on April 14th @ 1930