

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

PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2011

Present: Dan Driscoll, Bob Gwin, Betty Ketcham, Bob Price, Tom Wolfe

Meeting called to order at 1933.

The Board began by reviewing the **April 14 minutes**. Bob Gwin noted the sentence in the second paragraph referring to the location of the Pokorny's property was incorrect. Chairman Price asked that the words "Beebe Road and" be deleted. Member Gwin also pointed out a sentence at the end of the "Impact on Aesthetic Resources" paragraph that had some errors in the wording. It was decided to change the last sentence of that paragraph to read: Chairman Price said that the line in the Comprehensive Plan that refers to "preserving the rural character of this community" is important when it was written 15 years ago but that times change and possibly that needs to be kept in mind. A motion was made by Member Gwin to approve the minutes with those changes, duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Chairman Price asked Betty Ketcham to share with the Board her findings on any possible environmental issues with the proposed location of the Dudley Observatory on the Pokorny property located on Middle Road. Betty said she found a Northern Harrier breeding site approximately ½ mile south of the proposed site. The Henslow Sparrows which are also a state listed threatened species were shown to be located at the corner of Beebe and Middle Roads. Chairman Price asked if anyone knew if cutting hay would affect the Harrier's or other birds. Member Wolfe said that since it was determined that there is a threatened species nearby to the proposed area it was the necessary for the Pokornys to contact the DEC and notify them of the proposed project. The DEC needs to know that there is an essential habitat of a threatened species that could perhaps be harmed and a biologist would need to determine if the owner needs to take other actions to prevent this or not.

It was the Board's recommendation that Chairman Price write a letter to the Pokornys suggesting they approach the DEC with their proposed project. That they need to make sure their project is not in violation of NYCRR Part 182 Endangered Species of Fish and Wildlife; species of Special Concern; Incidental Take Permits.

Chairman Price said that the subject of the Pokorny's proposal of a "Dark Skies" requirement to the Planning Board last month came up at the Town Board meeting earlier in the week. Chairman Price said that everyone including Supervisor Hammond supported it.

Chairman Price and the rest of the Planning Board members discussed and determined the differences, between fully shielded and full cutoff lighting. It was determined that the definition of full cut off lighting would be used. The definition of a full cut off light is: “A lighting fixture from which no light output is emitted at or above a horizontal plane drawn through the bottom of the lighting fixture”. It was determined that the exact wording of the new requirement shall be “All outdoor lighting fixtures in new construction in the Town of Knox shall be full cut off fixtures.” This wording will be inserted into the Town of Knox Zoning Ordinance on page 36, Section 50 A3 Activity Standards Item f. A motion to adopt this wording and revise the Zoning Ordinance to reflect this change was made by Member Wolfe and seconded by Member Gwin. Chairman Price agreed to draft a memo to the Town Board informing them of this decision.

Upon a motion made by Member Gwin and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2040.

The next meeting will be held on June 9th @ 1930