

DRAFT TOWN OF HOWARD PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Planning Board members present: Jim Fodge, Barry Kidder, Robin Phenes, William Thew (Chairman), Sean Turner

Absent: Andrew Burdin, Josh Ferguson, Shane Slayton Excused: Brad Laverty

Guest: Richard Stewart

Call to Order: William Thew called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes: The draft minutes from the April 2025 meeting were not available from William Thew for approval at this meeting. The April 2025 meeting included the O'Brochta subdivision. These minutes will be reviewed at the June 2025 meeting for approval.

Training Updates: Planning Board members asked if they could get training credit after watching recorded webinars provided on the Southern Tier Central – Regional Planning and Development website (<https://www.stcplanning.org/>). A wetland regulation webinar was recently provided by Southern Tier Central, and several board members were interested in watching it, if it was recorded.

Board members suggested having the Town Board set up a training session with several towns, or having the County organize a training session, possibly on a Saturday when more board members would be available.

Old Business: Town Supervisor, Don Evia, indicated the Town is working with an engineering firm on the park.

New Business:

Review of planning board rules and renewable laws:

The Planning Board was not aware of the recent proposed change to the navigation law in Local Law #1, 2025, or the public hearing that was held during the May 2025 Town Board meeting.

The Planning Board should consider updating the battery storage law.

On the evening of the next Planning Board meeting, there will be a public hearing on Don Evia's subdivision, which will separate the land from the house.

Special meetings of the Planning Board will be called occasionally for subdivision approval to avoid holding up real estate deals.

Terms of Planning Board members: William Thew's term will end in 2025, so the Town Board will be nominating a new chairperson for 2026.

Public Comment:

Richard Stewart provided a summary of the May 2025 Town Board meeting, which included approval of the purchase of a new grader. The Town is also considering hiring a new highway employee and assisting the employee with obtaining CDL credentials.

Adjournment: Barry Kidder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm, seconded by Jim Fodge. Carried: Fodge, aye; Kidder, aye; Phenes, aye; Thew, aye; Turner, aye.