**TOWN OF AMITY PLANNING BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 14, 2021**

**APPROVED**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Those present were: W. Skinner, G. Hanchett, J. Clouse, and B. Zlomek; those present be ZOOM were J. Maynard, D. Serra; absent was P. VanDyke.

***Pledge of Allegiance*** was led by W. Skinner.

***Approval of Minutes*** Motion to approve minutes of the 9-16-2021 made by D. Serra; seconded by G. Hanchett; Vote: yes – 6; no – 0; motion carried.

***Town Board Report***  W. Skinner reported that the Town Board approved the final budget for 2022, and set the pubic hearing for same for October 25th 6-7PM. The usual reports were given by Highway Superintendent, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, and Planning Board. Member of the public C. Jones reported on Senior Town Hall meetings he has been attending, summarizing that seniors feel isolated, due to COVID, lack of internet/computer access, and would like to be able to gather for activities, exercise, and company.

***New Business***

***Joint Comprehensive Plan for Village and Town Strategies*** A ZOOM meeting for the presentation by the Alfred State College Urban Design students was held on September 20, 2021, from 1:30 – 3:00 PM. The three topics presented were:

* Housing / Development / Architectural Aesthetics
* Transportation, Parking, Universal Design & Walkability
* Recreation, Open Space and the Environment

The presentation was somewhat chaotic because it was done via ZOOM, and the student groups for each of the three topics were all reporting from different locations, some with good internet access, some without. The presentations basically revolved around the village priorities, and omitted the town priorities. This was brought to the attention of the professor.

The final presentation by the students was scheduled for October 11, 2021, but was moved to October 20, 2021; it will be open to the public and held at GVCS Cafeteria, time TBD.

***Old Business*** W. Skinner reminded the board that following the student presentations, we would be resuming work with the county Office of Planning to complete the final drafts of the comprehensive plan. The village still wants to have a section of the plan devoted specifically to their municipality. Completing the draft may require additional meetings during November and December; the plan was slated to be finished and brought to a pubic hearing by the end of the year.

***Other ??***

***District meeting update*** W. Skinner shared highlights of the District II Town Hall Legislators meeting held 10-11-2021 in Belmont. Main topics of concern were the failure of the county IDA to successfully bring the Great Lakes Cheese development to the Crossroads Area, the inability of legislators to work effectively with the ACIDA for the town of Amity, and the lack of preparedness / infrastructure to support development and growth for light industry and/or small manufacturing.

G. Hanchett also discussed structural/organizational changes happening with the county economic development, chambers of commerce, and tourism. We have to find solutions to work effectively with the county.

***Proactive planning***  J. Clouse suggested we begin to work at our local level to bring infrastructure to the areas slated for development. B. Zlomek queried if we could start our own development agency or mechanism to move forward; if we started with water and sewer, could we form our own water district and/or water company? W. Skinner encouraged the planning board members to think of ways they could be proactive to bring development to the town, even baby steps to move forward, with or without the assistance of county or state government. Bring three to five ideas, no matter how big or small, to move towards our goals.

***Next Meeting -- November 11, 2021 @ 7PM***

***Adjournment*** Motion to adjourn by D. Serra, seconded by G. Hanchett; Vote: Yes – 6; No – 0; meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.