

Minutes for the Town of Sennett Zoning Board of Appeals Thursday, January 27, 2022 at the Town of Sennett Office Building.

Members: David Sikora
Jeffrey Hofmann
Harold Gilfus

Absent: Marion Cool

Supervisor Thomas Blair

Town Councilman Mike Wellauer

Supervisor Blair opens the meeting at 6:34 with the Pledge. He asks the board members to discuss their suggestions for a chairperson this year, the Town Board did not appoint a chairperson yet. The 2021 chairperson--Julie Panna-- was unable to continue on the board this year.

- Dave has 5 years of experience on the board and is a former Town Supervisor
- Jeff is currently in his 5th year on the board
- Harold has experience in zoning across several municipalities, he was an alternate last year and moved into a seat on the board this year

After some discussion, Harold makes a motion to make the recommendation to the Town Board for Dave Sikora to be ZBA Chairman for 2022. Jeff seconds, all ayes. At the next meeting, Marion can ratify Dave's vote.

Councilman Wellauer will act as a liaison for the ZBA board this year. He is also the liaison for Codes and Zoning. He is in attendance tonight and will attend meetings in person or via Google Teams.

Dave asks Supervisor Blair what the Town Board's position was for changing the ZBA board's attorney this year. Supervisor Blair says that the Town Board thought it wasn't efficient having 3 different attorneys for the Town, ZBA and Planning boards. This year, the ZBA will be using Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC. Former attorney, Norman Chirco, was spoken to about this decision and understands. Dave asks if the lawyer will attend each meeting. Supervisor Blair says that is up to the board. The consensus from the board is that the lawyer should attend every meeting in case there are questions that can be directed to the attorney on the spot. Dave makes a motion to ask that the lawyer be present at each meeting. Jeff seconds, all ayes.

The board decides to keep the meetings on the last Thursday of each month @ 7 PM if a meeting is necessary that month.

Dave makes a motion to appoint Heather Driscoll as the ZBA Board Clerk for 2022, Harold seconds, all ayes. Heather accepts the position.

Dave discusses with the board that as board members, their job is to remain un-biased, straightforward and make decisions based on the Town of Sennett Zoning Code. Supervisor Blair adds that board members should be aware of the danger in speaking about applications

outside of the board and meetings. People can, and have, been sued before for making judgements about applications that come before the board. It is his expectation that board members in the Town of Sennett do not participate in that behavior.

The board discusses the documentation to be used by board members in decision-making. Dave asks Heather to submit 2 packets to the Town Clerk for binders to be made and requests a hard copy of the Zoning Code for each member. Dave requests that board members use Heather as the communicator for needs between the board and Town Clerk.

To fill the remaining seats on the board, Supervisor Blair says that the Town Clerk will be putting out a formal posting on the Town's website and their Facebook page, asking for individuals interested in becoming a member to contact the Town Clerk. A committee selected by the Town Board will be in charge of interviewing individuals for the open seats.

Dave asks Supervisor Blair if members should direct questions to Councilman Wellauer. Supervisor says that they can certainly reach out to Councilman Wellauer and ask the Town Supervisor questions if needed.

Dave motions to adjourn, Jeff seconds, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Driscoll, ZBA Clerk