

Village of Herkimer Planning Board



Meeting Notes

Purpose: Monthly Planning Board Meeting

Date: March-27-2019

Attendees

Members:

Attending: Chairman Brion Carroll;
Members Adam Hutchinson;
Becky Cristman;
Chris Lotey;
Howard Quick;

Absent:

Non-Members:

Discussion Notes:

1. A meeting was held on Monday, March 25th with Board of Trustee members Maria Fiorentino and Virendranath Dhaniram (Max) to resolve the differences as reported by Donna Thompson following the March 18th Board of Trustees meeting. The meeting was scheduled with the intent to "...resolve their differences over a proposed retail corridor included in the village master plan".
2. The differences center on the lack of action throughout the past several month by the Village Administration to hold a public hearing and ratify into law the Retail Corridor 3 Zoning Ordinance – the first of dozens of Actions defined in the Master Plan 2020 document signed into law by the previous Village Administration back in March of 2018.
3. At the March 25th meeting it was determined that Maria would be recommended by the Planning Board to replace Max as the Planning Board Liaison, due primarily to the lack of time available to Max per his other board activities, as well as a unique interest by Maria to support the Planning Board's vision as expressed in the Master Plan 2020.
4. It was decided during that meeting that Maria would present the actions necessary to resolve the issues by requesting that the Mayor instruct the Clerk's office staff to:
 - a. Publish a Public Hearing notice in the local newspaper announcing review of the Retail Corridor 3 Zoning Ordinance;

- b. Place the Public Hearing in the agenda for the April 1, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting;
5. The intent of these actions would enable the Board of Trustees to hold the public hearing next Monday and pending any objections, ratify the new zoning ordinance into local law.
 6. Maria provided the Mayor with this “resolution to this outstanding issue” immediately following the March 25th meeting, and the Mayor responded that he could not support that timeline because he needed to confer with the Village Lawyer, Nick Macri and since Nick was out of town throughout the week, he can’t ensure that there would be sufficient time to submit the public notice five days before the April 1st Board of Trustees meeting.
 7. In the article published by Donna Thompson per the March 18th meeting, “Village Attorney Nick Macri pointed out neither he nor Village Clerk Mandy Viscomi have any say in deciding whether or not the proposal is approved. That decision is up to the village board ...”
 8. Per this response by the Mayor, it is clear that nothing has changed in relationship to the lack of support by the current Village Administration regarding required actions of the Planning Board per the legally adopted Master Plan 2020. The meeting scheduled to resolve the differences between the two Village organizations had an obvious goal, and an equally obvious course of action – but this decision by the Mayor to consult the Village Attorney – when the Village Attorney stated in the Mayor’s presence that he does not play a role in this process reinforces that no movement is imminent.
 9. It is therefore the decision of the Village of Herkimer Planning Board that we will suspend all Master Plan 2020 operations until such time as the Village Administration takes the necessary actions as decided at the March 25th meeting – and commits to be an active participant in working proactively with the Planning Board to achieve the goals as defined in the Master Plan 2020 document.

Action Item	Responsible	Status	Comment
Retail Corridor 3 Zone Ordinance	Adam Hutchinson	<i>Released</i>	<i>Public review and BoT approval has been expected for 4 months w/o Village Administration action</i>
Retail Corridor 1 Zone Ordinance	Adam Hutchinson	Draft Produced	No action taken at this meeting.
Retail Corridor 2 Zone Ordinance	Adam Hutchinson	Draft Produced	No action taken at this meeting.
ECode360 Web Site for posting Village Zoning Ordinances	Brion Carroll	Investigate	No action taken at this meeting.
Master Plan 2020	All members	In-work	No action taken at this meeting.

Next Meeting:

1. To be determined