

**TOWN OF JACKSON
PLANNING BOARD MEETING
August 6, 2024**

The Town of Jackson Planning Board met on August 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Town of Jackson Town Hall. The following people were in attendance-

Board Members:

- Kelly Donahue
- Erik Vandenberg
- Mark Mahoney
- Irene Headwell
- Amy Maxwell

Others Present:

- Lewis Steele
- Sharon Dunn
- Dan and Amy Shaver
- Eric Strebel

Chair Donahue began by thanking everyone for their patience throughout challenges with the Jackson Solar 1, LLC project. Jackson Solar 1, LLC project owners and contractors advised the Town they would not be attending the August Planning Board meeting a day prior, withdrawing their previous request to be included on the agenda. They will continue to work with project engineers at Barton and Loguidice to get their site plans where they need to be and Chair Donahue will continue to update Planning Board members and residents with any news. Project contractors Millcreek Renewables are currently stabilizing the site on advice from our Attorneys but they are not permitted by the Town to work any further than that.

JUNE 4TH MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Mark Mahoney and seconded by Erik Vandenberg to approve the June 4, 2024 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried in favor 4-0 with Amy Maxwell abstaining.

JULY 2ND MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Amy Maxwell and seconded by Erik Vandenberg to approve the July 2, 2024 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried in favor 4-0 with Irene Headwell abstaining.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

There was no Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting for the month of July, but Erik Vandenberg has been working hard to provide surveys to people both at the Town Picnic and

online. A QR code of the survey has also been published in the Eagle Press that residents can use their phones to access. Board members discussed their hopes to reach a wider audience through the news article in the Eagle Press. Chair Donahue questioned Board member VandenBerg on a possible date a draft Comprehensive Plan could be prepared by. Erik stated he would like to have a draft copy prepared by Labor Day, following the collation of survey responses we receive throughout the month.

COMMERCIAL BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE LAW

Chair Donahue will have a draft Commercial Battery Energy Storage Law she will be sending out to Board members this month to review. She advised she will be asking for a 3-month extension of the moratorium at the August regular Town Board meeting to continue working on the draft law and schedule time to meet with emergency services. Washington County Public Safety provided the Town with draft regulations the Dept. of State is preparing in regards to battery energy storage facilities that will be helpful to review.

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER OPENING

Resident Michael Ammaturo has expressed interest in the open Planning Board member seat. Chair Donahue questioned if Planning Board members would be comfortable putting Michael's name forward to the Town Board for appointment. Planning Board members all agreed to have Kelly request Michael Ammaturo to the Town Board to fill Tim Thomas's remaining term.

At this time, Chair Donahue questioned if any people in attendance would like to speak. Resident Amy Shaver expressed her concern with the potential Norbut Solar project on Ackley Road as well as the Jackson Solar 1, LLC project on Route 22. Chair Donahue stated that as of this date, the Town has not received an official application from Norbut Solar so if the Utility Scale Solar, Wind and Alternative Energy Facility Moratorium is passed at the August Town Board meeting, they would not be permitted to apply for at least the next 6 months. Chair Donahue explained the issues with Jackson Solar 1, LLC having preconstruction drawings that were substantially different from their original site plans. This was one of the reasons the Town believed it was necessary to return to the Solar Law to prevent these issues from happening with future solar applications. The August regular Town Board meeting where they will vote on the Solar/Wind/Alternative Energy Moratorium as well as vote on the extension of the Battery Energy Storage Moratorium will be held on August 7th at 7:30 pm.

A **motion** was made by Irene Headwell and seconded by Erik VandenBerg to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 pm.

Motion carried in favor 5-0.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Adjourned: 6:58 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Dixon, Town of Jackson