

Town of Bethel
Zoning Board of Appeals

PO Box 300, 3454 Route 55
White Lake, NY 12786

Present: Stephen Morey, Chairman
James Crowley, Vice Chairman
Dan Brey
Robert Yakin
Richard Conroy
Jesse Komatz
Cirino Brunno- Alternate

Attendees: Jannetta MacArthur
Recording Secretary
Denise Frangipagne Councilwoman
BJ Gettel – Code Enforcement
Officer
Jacqueline Ricciani – Attorney
Daniel Sturm – Supervisor
Daniel Gettel – Planning Board

Excused Bob Brown

Seating Cirino Brunno - Alternate

Pledge to the flag

A moment of silence for the bombing victims in Boston today.

The Town of Bethel Zoning Board of Appeals held its monthly meeting on April 15, 2013. The meeting was held at the Duggan School, 3460 State Route 55, Kauneonga Lake, at 7:30 PM. The agenda is as follows:

Motion to approve November 19th minutes by Richard Conroy, second by Jim Crowley

All in favor – 7

All opposed -0

Agreed and carried

Steve Morey: I appreciate everyone coming; we don't have an application this evening. I did want to discuss training and another matter after training. I had a discussion with the supervisor about training. I want to review who needs and training, and what training is necessary.

BJ Gettel: This is the status of the board members training.

Bob Brown -10
Cirino Bruno 11
Richard Conroy has 10
Jim Crowley has 5
Jesse Komatz 4
Steve Morey - 8
Bob Yakin 0

That is what your standings are as of today

Steve Morey: I was reading the training requirements in the code book. It says you can have more than 4 hours that can be carried over to subsequent years. It doesn't say making up for past years.

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BJ Gettel: It has been awhile since some of you have had training. We need to get that corrected this year. The town board has informed me they are going to take a firmer standing on the training. Unfortunately, the zoning board is lacking. I don't know what I can do to get you more training.

Daniel Gettel: There is online training.

Jim Crowley: How did you make out with the map training?

BJ Gettel: We are working on that. We are trying to get some in house training on how to read a map. It would get you a couple of hours of credit, there is a possibility that Daniel Gettel, Planning Board Chairman, will run this training.

Jacqueline Ricciani: It wouldn't hurt, some of the convoluted topography.

BJ Gettel: These site plans that are being presented to you for use variances and area variances need to have everything on that is supposed to be on the map, as per the code book. With that being said, we thought that just a basic class might be beneficial. We have had a large turnover of both the Zoning Board and Planning Board, for two hours of training, we thought it couldn't hurt.

Daniel Brey: How many credits are required each year

BJ Gettel: A minimum of 4 hours each year, by State law

Steve Morey: You said the town board is taking a little bit of a different stance with training; I am still confused about making up for lost time.

BJ Gettel: That is something you will have to ask the Town Board. No board has requested that their lack of training be waived for a particular year.

Steve Morey: Before the meeting began, I did review training requirements.

Reading training requirement in the zoning code.

“Each member of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall complete, at a minimum, four hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of four hours in any one year may be carried over by the member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subsection. Such training shall be approved by the Town Board and may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity. Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

To be eligible for reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals, such member shall have completed the above training.”

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Denise Frangipagne: The only action the town board has taken is to approve the training hours that has been submitted to us so that you can get that credit. There has been no action or suggestion by the board to remove anyone from the Zoning Board. I just want to clarify that. We did say it is important that all of our board members take the necessary training, and keep up with their training. We do acknowledge that you are all volunteers. We also don't want you to go to training that isn't relevant to the work that you are doing, just to get the hours. It is certainly something the board could do, but they do not want to do this.

Steve Morey: The reason why I am going into all of this is because there are some of the newer members who aren't aware of this. I was a member of the board when actually training requirement was first instituted by the State. Prior to that there wasn't any training requirement. Some of the newer members probably aren't aware of the powers.....

Denise Frangipagne: It is really important. Sometimes some of the members of the community do ask about this also, because they are interested being on the board. When we discuss this at a Town Board meeting and when we go through the information for the record we will hear that and sometimes they ask questions. The Planning Department does a good job of finding training, if there is something specific that would help you in the work you are doing, between the Planning Department, BJ, and my organization, we are always doing training. Webinars are also available. People on my staff are doing webinars all the time.

Dan Sturm: If I am not mistaken, you are referring to the section of a removal of a member.

Steve Morey: The reason why I am looking at that is because training can be an issue.

Dan Sturm: Right, but I think there is a section in there, which says they should not be reappointed without the training. We have been appointing every year; we have one due each year pretty much. I think that in the discussion that we had, we shouldn't be waiving that, every one we reappoint should have the training.

Steve Morey: For my personal purposes, evening training is almost impossible. I need daytime trainings, or webinars.

Denise Frangipagne: I would be happy to look into this. There are some daytime trainings that are done.

Jacqueline Ricciani: County level trainings usually begin at 4pm.

Denise Frangipagne: Is that too late? If there is something specific, we can set it up, or BJ can set up.

Daniel Gettel: The Liberty ones seem to start earlier

Jim Crowley: For clarification, you have to make up the hours you don't have, correct?

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BJ Gettel: The town has not given me direction either way on this. I am just stating since they have instituted this and since the State has mandated the requirements, this is what your tally's are.

Daniel Gettel: NYMER offers a couple of courses, you can get up to 8 hours from NYMER books, read them at your leisure, take the test, get 80% correct, you can get up to 8 hours of credits. We have to track down the books.

Jacqueline Ricciani: Can you get new ones? Maybe they have new sections.

Steve Morey: So just for clarification from the town board, negative hours need to be made up.

Dan Sturm: Yes, even though we have been reappointing all along.

Denise Frangipagne: It is expected, so the training needs to be made up

#2 – Personnel matter

Motion to go into executive session to discuss a procedure/personnel matter, and invite Jacqueline Ricciani, and Denise Frangipagne, by Richard Conroy, second by Bob Yakin

All in favor – 7

Opposed-0

Agreed and carried

7:50 PM

Motion to return to regular meeting by Jim Crowley, second by Jesse Komatz

All in favor – 7

Opposed-0

Agreed and carried

8:40 pm

Motion to have the Zoning Board of Appeals attorney present at every zoning board meeting by Richard Conroy, second by Jesse Komatz

All in favor – 7

Opposed-0

Agreed and carried

BJ Gettel: We will have a meeting in May. The applicant will be Happy Avenue Hippies.

May 20th will be the next meeting

Denise Frangipagne: I just want to reiterate the offer to you guys to create training that would be relevant. I will get the information and send it to BJ. Please clear with BJ first to make sure you get the training approved.

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NYPF.org – is website for training as well.

Motion to adjourn by Dan Brey, second by Jessie Komatz

All in favor – 7

Opposed-0

Agreed and carried

8:50pm

Respectively submitted,

Jannetta MacArthur
Recording Secretary