

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City of Rensselaer Planning Commission
First Floor Court Room, Rensselaer Community Center, 62 Washington Street
April 11, 2011

Members Present:

Charles Moore – Chair, Christine Van Vorst – Vice-Chair, Frank Adams, Tom Cardamone, George Farrell, James Ahlemeyer and Bob Campano

Staff Present:

Sarah Crowell – Planning Director, Daniel Berheide – Assistant Planning Director, Sharon Butler- Office Manager, Jack Spath – Deputy Corporation Counsel

Others Present

James Busse, Brianna Gary, Joe Zappone, Walter Wheeler, Bill Rhone, Ray Smith, Wayne Bayer, Dawn Gillan, Michelle Peart, Louise Badi, David Bander, Evelio Feliciano, Rick Sousa, Johanna Burnham, Roase Chemyg, Marr Seaburg, David Leilani Pasly, Jeff Berkam, Bonnie Hahn, Jesse Newman, Rocca Bachandouris, Hans S. Dirzoweit, Patricia Buchanan, Pat Eaton, Brian Mayhew, Deb Hornyak, Barb Novak, T. Bohley, William H Sheldon Sr., Camille Gibeau, Lisa K. Kelly, Mike Presti, John Patterson, Kimberly Carey, Dave Gillan, Joanne K. Farrell, John S. Patten, Rose Chomps, Marc Wintz, Regina McNeills, Deborah Wilson, and Dred Parson; among others.

Call to Order:

Chair Moore called the regular meeting of the City of Rensselaer Planning Commission to order at 6:33PM. Roll call was taken, and it was determined there was a quorum.

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

The minutes of March 14, 2011 were approved as submitted with two corrections. First, page 3, New Castle Asphalt LLC responded to a question about the number of trucks as one-hundred and thirty per day. Secondly, Bob Campano opposed negative recommendation of the Site Plan Review to construct a storage facility located at 44 Aiken Avenue.

Communications

Ms. Crowell announced the hire of a new Assistant Director of Planning, Daniel Berheide.

Old Business:

1. Approval of invoice #0074625 for Chazen Engineering on De Laet's Landing Project and Invoice #56562 for Barton & Loguidice on Cottage Hill Landing Project. Mr. Moore asked if any members had questions regarding the invoice, with no comments or questions motion to pay invoices was made by Christine Van Vorst and 2nd George Farrell, all in favor; motion carried.

2. Planning Commission continued to hear public comment on the New Castle Asphalt, LLC application for a special Use Permit to construct and operate a blacktop plant at the Port of Rensselaer in the floodplain. Following, full transcription is available, the commission adjourned the public hearing until further notice. Mr. Moore read a resolution to retain the services of Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP to be paid through an applicant funded escrow account, see attached resolution, and a motion was made by Mr. Ahlemeyer to accept the resolution, 2nd by Ms. Van Vorst, all in favor; motion carried.

New Business

1. **Rensselaer Little League (RLL) – Site Plan Review to grade a vacant lot and construct a 2’ retaining wall; install 75’ of 4’ chain link fence to make a T-ball field.**

Mr. Moore suggested the RLL request the city building inspector review and provide input for plans to construct a 2’ retaining wall. Motion to approve the site plan was made by Ms. Van Vorst, 2nd by Mr. Cardamone, all in favor; motion carried.

2. **Stilsing Properties, LLC: application for sketch plan review for proposed subdivision on South Street in CI Zoning district.**

After clarification that the proposed new property division crosses the municipal boundaries of the City of Rensselaer and East Greenbush a motion was made by Bob Campano to classify the subdivision as minor, 2nd Mr. Farrell, all in favor; motion carried. Ms. Crowell stated the applicant will be required to return for a public hearing and final approval from the Planning Commission. Additionally, any approval will be contingent on the approval of East Greenbush’s planning body.

3. **Marc Johnson: 44 Aiken Avenue Area Variance to construct monument sign.**

Applicant did not appear and a motion to table making a recommendation to the Zoning board until the next meeting of the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission requested a letter be sent to the applicant asking if they are withdrawing their application to notify the commission.

Adjournment:

Hearing no objections, Chair Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM 2nd by James Ahlemeyer

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

Record of Decisions:

An official record of decisions noting the details of motions and votes from this meeting along with any conditions & stipulations of approval has been filed with the City Clerk and a copy maintained in Planning Department records.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Crowell
Secretary