

Town of Sherburne, NY Planning Board Minutes May 8, 2018

Attendance: Mike Janitz, Jim Gager, Jim Osborne, Holly Crouch, Nancy Simerl

Absent: Brian Guldy, Kris Kovack

Guests: Rowena Krum and Charlie Mastro representing Town of Sherburne
David Mondri/owner, Tim Benedict/attorney, Tom Serwatka/ consultant for Empire Packing
And interested public, who filled log cabin room at firehouse with many standing in doorways.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Charlie Mastro.

Minutes from April 10 reviewed Motion to accept April minutes by Jim Gager; second by Holly Crouch; carried with no changes.

Public Meeting for Empire Packing Project:

Charlie Mastro opened meeting stating that Tim Benedict would present an overview of the proposed project, followed by public questions and comments which may be restricted to two minutes per person. He explained that the Sherburne Planning Board is responsible for the task of comparing projects proposed within the Town of Sherburne with existing laws and regulations concerning land use. After conducting such reviews, the planning board makes recommendations to governing bodies. In this case, site plan review and State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) were conducted. Public hearings are optional for the review process; the planning board invited the public to meet for information and discussion of this project because it will impact our community. He concluded that following this discussion, the planning board will vote on their recommendation.

Tim Benedict presented an overview of the Empire Packing project to be located on five leased acres adjacent to Purdy & Sons at 816 County Route 24 (Shawler Brook Road). Facility will operate 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday under USDA regulations. Livestock will be delivered daily; 4-5 commercial trucks per day are anticipated. Additionally, business will encourage custom processing for local farmers, which is not expected to increase daily traffic significantly. Maximum processing capacity for proposed facility is 64 animals per day. Initially the business anticipates 40-50 animals daily. Occasionally, animals will be penned overnight; such animals will be managed according to USDA regulations. Business intends to employ 15-20 individuals within one year. The operation's anticipated water usage will be 2,500 gallons per day from the existing aquifer. Processed liquid waste will be directed to an underground holding tank, pumped regularly and disposed of off-site. 3-phase municipal electrical power will be provided from the road.

There were many public concerns about the proposed project and the review process. Many residents of Shawler Brook Road expressed their need for more notification sooner . . .

The topics raised in the May 3rd letter to the editor of the Sherburne News were discussed: the project site is adjacent to and leased from Purdy & Sons; Empire Packing will pay taxes at normal business rate; during review process, Chenango County Highway Supervisor reported that County Route 24 is adequate and in good shape for anticipated traffic (community strongly disagreed); no plans to change speed limits; additional electrical power will be delivered from existing roadside poles; waste water associated with additional employees on-site will be handled by appropriate additional septic field capacity on-site; waste fluids associated with livestock processing will be stored and removed for disposal; projected water usage is not expected to impact the underlying aquifer; any future proposal for expansion requires a new review similar to this one; per USDA regulations a USDA inspector is always present during processing operations which are restricted to eight hours daily; local farmers are encouraged to schedule one or more animals for custom processing; regulations require that animals be able to walk unassisted into the facility; animals will be locally sourced, 4-6 commercial trucks daily plus animals delivered for custom processing; holding pen is enclosed; facility is designed to minimize exterior odors; most commercial processing will be cattle, custom processing of hogs will be available. Additionally, concerned residents asked what tasks will employees perform and what is the pay rate? Most employees will work on processing floor for \$15-20/hour. Several residents commented that planning board minutes have not been posted online yet. Planning Board members were asked if this project is aligned with the Sherburne Town Comprehensive Plan (which is due for updating). Finally, it was noted that Sherburne Town does not have zoning or other regulations that might restrict development such as the Empire Packing proposal.

Motion to close public hearing by Mike Janitz; second by Nancy Simerl; carried.

Motion for roll call vote to formalize recommendation for Empire State Packing project by Holly Crouch; second by Mike Janitz; carried.

Mike Janitz - yes; Jim Gager - yes; Jim Osborne -yes; Holly Crouch -yes; Nancy Simerl - yes. Passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. Motion by Jim Gager; second by Holly Crouch; carried.

Submitted by Nancy Simerl, June 6, 2018