

The regular meeting of the Plans Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Albany Village Hall by President Kim Blumer. Members present were: Blumer, Eileen Althaus, Virginia Detra, Mark Riedel, Paul Rhyner, and Michelle Monson. Absent: Karl Hulbert. Also present were: Chris Lange and Steve Mortaloni.
Proof of posting verified.

MINUTES: Motion by Blumer, seconded by Monson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed. Carried.

FUTURE: Blumer allowed Steve Mortaloni to speak at this time instead of waiting for the end of the meeting. He is looking for land to purchase to build a storage unit for his deck business. Trucks are not able to drop off supplies at his business on North Water Street. Discussion over what the needs are for him and for the village has available. Mortaloni stated that his is just in the beginning stages of checking into this at this time, but that he will take a look at the lots that were discussed. The building would mostly be storage at the beginning, but is hoping it to become employment for possibly up to four employees and there would also be the employees that build the decks. He will check on these properties and get back to the Plans Commission if he would like to pursue it.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES UPDATES: Keepers shared copies of emails received from Pam Wollin regarding her property located at 121 North Water Street. The village sent letters to her and Mark Berlinski regarding their businesses and the legality of them. Wollin has received her letter (sent with a return receipt) but we have no word that Berlinski has received his letter. Much discussion was held on what needed to be done, and that the consensus seems to be that most people want retail in this downtown area and not the residential type use. Members are also very frustrated that the village has been ignored while these owners are making changes and renting out the properties without having received permission from the village or building permits to do so. Riedel stated that we need to realize what our main obstacle for the downtown business is, and it was decided that this would be parking. Suggestions were to put time limits on the parking stalls either in certain areas or else in the entire downtown area. Another suggestion was to not allow any people who are tubing down the river to park on the streets, as their trips can last several hours which ties up all of the parking spots. We are looking at this need basically 7 days a week during the summer months. In the 100 block of North Water Street, there are several times that this block is filled with vehicles for long periods of time, not leaving any room for customers that need a shorter amount of time to park. Monson stated that we need to make our existing downtown business owners happy. Also, it appears that the main issue at this time is the parking. It was decided that the downtown property owners will be invited to the January Plans Meeting to discuss their thoughts on limited parking. The Police Officer in Charge should also be here to see how this can be policed. In the meantime, it was decided that we need to see to it that the two existing overnight businesses discontinue their business until they meet with the Plans Commission to do this as it should have been done in the beginning. Lange asked if the Plans Commission can begin being more PROactive than Reactive. He feels that we need a bigger plan for the future of Albany. It was decided that we need to take one step at a time, and feel that at this time parking is the most important issue to start with.

Lange also stated that the Community 1st Group is in need of leadership from the Village Board so that we are all getting things done for the overall betterment of the community, as we have a great little town. Riedel asked about getting the "Official Chamber of Commerce" established in the area, and that hopefully the other group acting as a chamber will work with them. We are small enough that one group would be the best for the area. There are very many grants that are available to local Chamber of Commerce.

ADJOURN: Motion by Detra, seconded by Monson to adjourn. Carried.
8:05 p.m.
LAURIE K. KEEPERS, Clerk