**Town of Voluntown**

**Planning & Zoning Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**July 10, 2019**

Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Unapproved

Chairman Scott Davidson called the regularly scheduled Planning & Zoning Commission meeting to order at 7PM.

**Members present:** Scott Davidson, Neftali Soto, David Nieminen & Carl Grenier. Also present are Jim Larkin & ZEO Pete Zvingilas

**Alternate:** Bob Panko

**Seating of Alternates:** Chairman Scott Davidson seated alternate Bob Panko as a full voting member.

**Visitors:** Tracy Hanson & applicants Jim Anderson & Leanne Church

**Approval of Minutes:** Neftali Soto made a motion to accept the minutes as amended with Judith Allik complete name from citizens comments. Carl Grenier seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

All in favor. Motion carried.

**Additions to Agenda:** NONE

**Citizens Comments:** Leanne Church had some questions about #’s for a quorum & #’s needed to have a positive vote.

Bob Panko made a motion to table Application 031319 discussion & possible action at the end of the agenda & move ahead with other agenda items. Scott Davidson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Abstain David Nieminen, Recuse Carl Grenier

**New Business:** None

**Old Business:** Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) discussion. Jim Larkin spoke about the workshop that Carl Grenier, Neftali Soto & Chairman Scott Davidson attended about a month ago. They went through current POCD’s goals & objectives & narrowed it down to be more specific to Voluntown. Deleted the entire chapter on Energy. No changes in Maps, updated Assessor data along with the amount of state-owned land including PA-490 & recreational land. Other items revised were Building Permit Data for the last 10-20 years. Jim Larkin & the Commission decided for each member to go though the current revisions, make changes and turn into the Town Clerk by July 24th. Jim Larkin will pick them up July 25th. Will review changes at the August 14th meeting. Final timeline was discussed.

**Correspondence:**  Budget information

**ZEO Report:** 1 permit retail space has tenant selling Quads under 49cc’s. Town garage is squared away.

**General Discussion:** Budget-P&Z budget is over allotted amount. Overage is covered. Will leave POCD in as a line item. Staffing issue: Discussed needing staff within town hall to take care of applications, agendas, minutes and general administrative duties. Position needs to be restructured.

Carl Grenier made a motion for a recess until 8pm. Member Marc Ledoux, Sr. is 10 minutes out. David Nieminen seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting resumed at 8PM. Alternate Marc Ledoux joined the meeting at 8PM.

Alternate Marc Ledoux Sr. was seated as a full voting member.

**Discussion & possible action on application 031319.**  Draft motion/text amendment change (EXHIBIT A) for 7-10-19 from Mike Carey who sent it to Jim Larkin and was forwarded to the applicants. Overall Commission does not have any issues with it.

Carl Grenier is recused from application. David Nieminen is not eligible to vote on this application due to not being present at all the past meetings/discussions. Members voting are Bob Panko, Marc Ledoux Sr., Chairman Scott Davidson & Neftali Soto.

Jim Larkin noted that measurements should be changed to gallons.

The 4 voting members discussed the application at length. 2 reasons are needed to approve. 3 votes yes to pass.

Neftali Soto made a motion to approve Application 031319 Text Amendment Change to permit beer and brew pubs in the Village District within the town of Voluntown. To be effective the day after the date it is published in the Norwich Bulletin. It is consistent with the Plan of Conservation & Development and would be in the best interest for economic development with the in the Village district within the town of Voluntown. Bob Panko seconded the motion.

Commission discussion on the motion. Members discussed their concerns about the application. Negative and Positive. (possible lack of amount of water, to close to churches & Village district for alcohol, lack of success for past businesses within the Village District.) Chairman Davidson reiterated that the application is not for 1 location it is meant for the entire Village district.

Neftali Soto made a motion to close discussion. Bob Panko seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Final Vote Yes 4-0 to approve Application 031319 to permit beer and brew pubs in the Village District within the town of Voluntown.

David Nieminen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Davidson seconded the motion All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Davidson adjourned the meeting at 8:30PM