

**Village of Cold Spring
Historic District Review Board
Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2022**

The Village of Cold Spring Historic District Review Board held a Meeting via videoconference as per Chapter 1 of NYS Laws of 2022 on Wednesday, July 20, 2022. Members present: Chair Al Zgolinski, Vice Chair Sean Conway, and Todd Seekircher. L. DesBrisay and A. Conner absent. A. Zgolinski called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Board Business

S. Conway advised the Workshop for 8 Depot Square is rescheduled for the August 3, 2022 meeting.

Public Comment - None

Discussion with Trustee Bozzi regarding Unified Solar Permits

Trustee Laura Bozzi present via videoconference. L. Bozzi thanked for the Board for their interest in the topic.

L. Bozzi provided some background information on the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities:

- Point-based grant system;
- Points are earned by participating communities upon completion of listed NYSERDA clean energy impact actions
- Increase in points results in larger grants to the communities.

L. Bozzi noted that the Town of Philipstown participates in the program. Village participation in the program could provide grants for projects that bring clean energy to the Village, such as EV chargers and insulation of municipal buildings.

L. Bozzi stated that the Village is preparing the paperwork to receive credit for the Village for already completed projects, for example, the change to LED street lamps and the Community Aggregation Program.

One of the NYSERDA listed actions is the Unified Solar Permit, the purpose of which is to create a consistent permitting process across municipalities.

L. Bozzi learned from CEO Greg Wunner that, while the Town of Philipstown adopted the Uniform Solar Permit, it is not used. The standard permit seems to be sufficient. She noted that the application is very long, and may be more useful for system level installations and/or solar panels installations in a field, rather than placing solar panels onto a home roof. L. Bozzi pointed out that making the process more difficult is not the point, and perhaps this is not the right action for the Village, however, she will get more information from her NYSERDA contact as to the process. L. Bozzi noted that even if the Village did adopt a Uniform Solar permit, it would still be a requirement that the process go through the HDRB.

Discussion ensued about ways in which the Board provide guidance as to best practices for installation of solar panels.

A. Zgolinski agreed a “best practices” document would be very useful and would make sense. S. Conway suggested that information in the updated Guidelines be incorporated in a single sheet available on HDRB website. Such action was within the Board’s purview and interests. The best way to contribute to the encouragement of responsible installation of solar panels is to provide more information up front rather than wait until the presentation at a Meeting.

S. Conway noted that the updated Design Guidelines, which are still under Board review, contains more information than in the existing version, and provide a resource guide for addressing sustainable building practices and energy efficiency pertaining to historic properties.

Board Members discussed waiving applications fees on solar permits as a means of encouraging residents to responsibly install solar panels. S. Conway will include details of the proposed fee waiver and other discussed matters, in the next HDRB monthly report to the VBOT.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- expedited processing of solar panel applications, with the understanding that Board recommendations/ changes must be implemented;
- holding electronic meetings on an expedited application and the

requirements of the Open Meeting Law.

- Other alternate forms of clean energy – heat pumps and geothermal.

L. Bozzi commented the VBOT is about to launch a campaign to encourage people to consider solar panels and other alternate forms of clean energy. S. Conway stated the proposal would be included in a future HDRB Meeting for further consideration.

Approval of Minutes

Additional Voting Session 06-01-2022 (AZ, SC, ACH, TS)

S. Conway made a motion to approve the Minutes as submitted. T. Seekircher seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-0-2 (A. Conner and L. DesBrisay absent).

Update on Design Standards

Board Members are continuing to work on the Design Standards.

Adjournment

S. Conway made a motion to adjourn. T. Seekircher seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-0-2 (A. Conner and L. DesBrisay absent). Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by Karen Herbert



August 3, 2022

Al Zgolinski, Chair

Date