

Village of Schoharie Planning Board
November 20, 2023
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Board members: Dusty Putnam, Tim Repicky, Tom Hitter, Steve Babbitt
Public: No one

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Chair gave each board member an agenda for the meeting.

Old Stone Fort addition: Dusty and Vince LaGanga, the architect designing the addition to the Badgley Annex building, have established a dialogue. His concepts have evolved from initial sketches presented to us a few months ago; she has emphasized the need for the design to blend in with the nearby historic structures, not overpower them. She arranged for him to visit the Fenimore Art Museum to observe their storage methods for the items in their collection and meet their professional curators. Now he has invited us on a field trip to the Old Stone Fort to see how they currently store their collection and explain their needs. The planning review process will require more scrutiny than normal because it is within a designated historic district. We await the submittal of the review application documents.

Resignation of long-serving board member: We received the resignation letter from Colleen Henry, newly elected to become village mayor in January. We are happy for her success, but sad to lose her wisdom from the board—she served for 16 years. Thank you and good luck!

Recruitment of new board member: We seek a 5-member board, so a replacement for Colleen is needed. We created a list of villagers to be canvassed.

Transition to new Chairperson: Dusty intends to step down from the chairperson position early next year but will remain a board member. Tom Hitter will become the Chair. To begin the transition, Tom will begin preparing the agenda for future meetings.

Schoharie Dental (Elbially) Expansion: We discussed the status of the application and recent coverage in the local newspaper. The Board had voted on Sept. 12 to deny the application, and had instructed our attorney, Dave Brennan, to draft the resolution document for final review and publication. Dr. Elbially was notified and hired attorney Robert Stout, who requested that the official release of the decision be postponed while he and his client decided how to proceed. Time passed, with the action between the attorneys. We received a 10-page document from attorney Stout on Oct. 23, and he requested a meeting be scheduled where he will present his case. We discussed the arguments presented in the letter and will listen to his presentation at a meeting on Nov. 30.

Future Meetings:

Thursday, November 30, 7:00 p.m. Attorney Stout for Schoharie Dental (Elbially)

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully,
Steve Babbitt

APPROVED