

PORTLAND TOWN BOARD/PORTLAND PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP
PORTLAND TOWN HALL
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel Schrantz	Supervisor
Jerry Boltz	Council
Gary Miller	Council
Patti Farrell	Council
Rick Manzella	Council

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harold Smith	Chairman
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Bob Patterson Sr.
Lori Foster
Daniel Larish

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joel Seachrist	Town Attorney
Roxane Sobecki	Town Clerk
Signe Rominger	Zoning Officer

Approximately 25 to 30 residents

Supervisor Schrantz opened the workshop at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence in memory of 911 and the people that lost their lives.

Supervisor Schrantz stated the workshop is for the boards to review the Town's current Wind Turbine Law, there will be no interaction with the public during the workshop. Members of the audience may speak at the board meeting that follows. The board reviewed the Solar Law (2017) and looked at the similarities between the two laws (Wind & Solar). Supervisor Schrantz read from The Town's Comprehensive Plan under Natural Resources (page 89).

"Much of what residents and visitors love about Portland is centered on its natural resources: rich soils well-suited to growing grapes, Lake Erie, scenic views, densely wooded hillsides, and open spaces. Looking out at the wide expanses of woods, fields, and water, it is hard to imagine that any of these resources might be fragile or limited, yet they are all intertwined and under near constant threat from both human activity and nature itself. Damage to even one component of this ecosystem cannot only impact the natural ecosystem but also has the potential to impact the community and local economy. Local government plays a key role in protecting natural resources and has a vested interest in retaining or even enhancing the value these resources bring to the community."

The Boards discussed Local Law 2-2010 – Mining Gravel, this was implemented to protect the gravel soil for grape farming.

Planning Board Chairman Harold Smith referred to the Comprehensive Plan stating the Town of Portland has just over 21,000 acres, 6,000 acres agricultural with more than 2,600 in grape production. Grape farms do, in fact, account for close to half the Town's land classified as agricultural use. The rural

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setting, wide-open views, small-town feel are considered by many residents as assets to the Town. While growth as a bedroom community will continue to be part of Portland's future, and should be encouraged in appropriate areas, it should not be allowed to impact upon the most valuable agricultural lands as this industry continues to be a strong portion of the Town's economy and rural character. He also reviewed Goals on page 27 of the Comprehensive Plan with one goal being agriculture: Goal A1: Preserve, protect and encourage agriculture in the Town of Portland. Goal A2: Preserve the prime agricultural soils and the water and air quality necessary for the Town's agricultural base to survive and thrive. He stated farmers need land with prime soil. He reviewed the soil survey of Chautauqua County, which states areas on the lake plains meets the requirements for prime farmlands. The Boards discussed different parts of the local law such as DBA's, setbacks, decommissioning of the turbines, and property values. Planning Board member Dan Larish recommended talking with NYSERTA. After more discussion it was decided to schedule a meeting with NYSTER.

On a motion of Council Miller, seconded by Planning Board Member Foster the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Roxane Sobecki
Town Clerk