

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2024

The Town Board held a Public Hearing to hear comments on the draft zoning law on February 14, 2024, at the Caroline Town Hall and by zoom conference beginning at 7:15 p.m.

Attendance:

Supervisor Mark Witmer
Councilmember Cal Snow
Councilmember Tim Murray
Councilmember Kate Kelley-Mackenzie
Councilmember Michele Brown

Also Present:

Recording Secretary:

Jessie Townsend, Town Clerk

Public Attendance: 25 in-person, and 32 via zoom

Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law to Adopt Zoning

Supr. Witmer read a statement providing the rules and procedures of the meeting. He summarized the efforts of the Planning Board, the Land Use and Economic Development Task Force, and the Zoning Commission, all worked to support the goals expressed in the Comprehensive Plan. In summary, he noted the elements of the law supporting housing of all types throughout the town, agricultural operations, preservation of open space, and protection of our waterways.

He opened the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Matt Mix – Opposed to many sections of the draft law. Shared concerns he has related to the subdivision minimums and not receiving answers to some questions that he has put forward. Urges the Board to consider the comments he submitted at the last meeting.

Hannah Wyllie – Opposes zoning. Shared her fear that this law may negatively impact the community.

Connie O'Brien – Supports the proposed law and noted the importance of protecting our water and environment. She went on to thank everyone who worked on drafting the law.

Wil Lawrence – Shared similar concerns she has regarding protecting the environment. She further expressed her skepticism on the proposed law fitting in this rural community.

Pete Hoyt – Opposes zoning. Asked the board to consider how many town residents do not support zoning, noting how close the fall election was.

Jean McPheeters – As a member of the Zoning Commission, she noted their intent of recommending the Board review the law every year or two to assess how it suits following adoption.

Janet Nash – Opposes zoning.

Katherine Goldberg – Submitted comments relating to allowing carwashes but not laundromats, the hamlets (in particular scaling Besemer down in size, and eliminating Caroline), and removing all subjective standards throughout.

Ellen Harrison – Supports the proposed zoning law.

Barbara Knuth – Supports the proposed zoning law.

Public Hearing – Recorded and Posted on Website

Bruce Murray – He would have preferred a much smaller version of the law.

Bob Reminick – Supports the proposed zoning law.

Kim Whetzel – Opposes the zoning law and shared his concern about subdividing and building restrictions on his many residential and commercial properties he owns.

Chris Turner – New resident in Slaterville Springs. Owns and operates a food truck business. Moved to Caroline because of no zoning in town, but after meeting and discussing his plan with former Zoning Commission member, Bill Podulka, he feels comfortable and confident it will not negatively affect his plans.

Pam Shafto – Supports the proposed zoning law.

Irene Weiser – Thanked everyone that has worked to create the law.

Supr. Witmer closed the Public Hearing at 8:05 p.m. He further explained that the Board will be discussing the comments received and next steps will be forthcoming.

Reminder: The Business Meeting is being held on February 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Supr. Witmer adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

----Meeting Adjourned ----

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie Townsend