

The Newfield Town Board convened a Public Hearing on July 9, 2015 at the Newfield Town Hall, 166 Main Street, Newfield NY. Supervisor Hart called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to obtain public comment on proposed Amendment to Local Law No. 1 of 2007 which established a Planning Board.

Present were: Supervisor Jeffrey Hart, Councilperson Roy Trask, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Casey Powers and Councilperson Christine Laughlin. Also present: Atty. Hooks, and 14 attendees. Supervisor Hart read proposed Local Law of the year 2015 as follows:

**LOCAL LAW #2 OF THE YEAR 2015 TO
AMEND LOCAL LAW #1 OF THE YEAR 2007 WHICH ESTABLISHED A PLANNING BOARD FOR
THE TOWN OF NEWFIELD**

PURPOSE: Since the Town has found it difficult to attract an agricultural member to join the Planning Board, this amendment is intended to make the appointment of such member discretionary rather than mandatory. The language comports with that contained in Section 271(11) of the New York Town Law.

SECTION ONE:

Section 4.1 of Local Law #1 of the year 2007 to establish a Planning Board for the Town of Newfield, New York hereby is amended to delete therefrom the requirement that at least one member of the Planning Board shall be an “agriculture member” as defined under New York Town Law Section 271(11) and to substitute instead that at least one member of the Planning Board may be an agricultural member as that term is defined under New York Town Law Section 271(11) provided, however that an applicant who is an agricultural member and otherwise deemed suitable and qualified shall be given propriety for appointment.

SECTION TWO:

Effective Date. This amendment shall take effect immediately upon its filing with the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Public Comment:

Marie Terlizzi: supports proposed Local Law # 2.

Tom Gerow: commented that the Newfield Planning Board supports proposed Local Law #2.

Supervisor Hart read comment received from Nancy Dolge

July 9, 2015

Date: July 9, 2015

As I am not able to attend the hearing tonight I'm sending some thoughts regarding the change to Local Law #1 2007. I have read the proposed amendment posted with the minutes of your June Board Meeting.

We have had an opening on the Planning Board since December 2014. We had two people interested in applying for the position before it was determined that Tom Gerow did not fulfill the requirements of the agricultural position as stated in the law. Therefore, those two individuals were no longer eligible to apply.

By the time my position opened in May, those two people had decided they were no longer interested. I think some of the confusion led to their decisions.

In the meantime, both Roy Trask and myself spent considerable time trying to recruit community members who did fit the limited requirements of the law. There are only a handful of people in the community who do fit the requirements. Since they are farmers, they are extremely busy. The Planning Board is looking for people who will not only attend meetings, but can contribute time for required Planning Board work outside of Board meetings. This is not something that the local farmers we talked with, felt they had time to commit to.

I think the wording of the amendment continues to address the Town's intent to encourage an agricultural representative on the Planning Board, but does not rule out any qualified community member willing to commit the time and effort required to serve.

Thank you for your continued service to our community and for your willingness to address this situation. I hope the amendment passes.

Nancy Dolge

There being no further comment, the Public Hearing closed at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

July 30, 2015

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk