

TOWN OF BATAVIA PLANNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING, April 6, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING
Meeting ID: 981 3971 8690
Password: 722925
By phone 1-646-558-8656 US (New York)

Because of the Novel Corona Virus Pandemic and state and federal bans on large meetings or gatherings and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive order 202.1 issued March 12, 2020 suspending the Open Meeting Law, the Town of Batavia Planning Board meetings was held electronically via ZOOM video conference/call conference instead of a public meeting open for the public to attend in person. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Town of Batavia Website.

PRESENT: Chairman Kathy Jasinski, Paul Marchese, Paul McCullough, Don Partridge, Jeremy Liles, Jonathan Long, Steve Tanner and Brooks Hawley.

ALSO ATTENDING: Brandon Lewis Owner of The Firing Pin, Matthew Hume, Linda Tomporowski, Greg Post Town Supervisor, Steve Mountain Town Engineer, Dan Lang Building Inspector, John Della Penna ZBA Chairman, Sarah Sauka is Host for the Zoom Meeting, Sharon White Town Board Member, Brian Quinn of the Batavia Daily News, Mike Pettinella of The Batavian, Alecia Kaus of Video News Service, and Secretary Kim McCullough.

ABSENT: Lou Paganello.

Alternate Member(s): Brooks Hawley will be voting.

March 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes will be voted upon at the April 20, 2021.

Brandon Lewis – Owner of The Firing Pin – 3269 Harloff Road, Batavia NY – Mr. Lewis gave an overview of the project, which will be located at the former Polar Wave property. Mr. Lewis stated that they have quite ambitious goals for the property and sees a lot of potential for a multitude of uses at the property as well, it will not only benefit the Town of Batavia but Genesee County and the local region. Mr. Lewis said that it to be used for recreational land for a shooting range, firearms training, general recreation, fitness training, venue space – examples were car shows or an antique show, concerts – local entertainment, paint ball, RV Park – small – 15 to 20 RVs which would be dry camping and Drive in Movie area.

Dan Lang stated that Matthew Hume was also with Mr. Lewis as he did the site plan and would like to speak as well. Matthew Hume did the site plan and also spoke about what Mr. Lewis wants to do with the property. Mr. Hume stated that not all of these items would be completed overnight or all at once, Mr. Lewis wanted to bring all of this to people's attention and be upfront for what he wants to do.

Chairman Jasinski asked what would be the first things to start, Mr. Lewis stated shooting range could start immediately, RV parking, paint ball, venue space, athletic track all of these do not require a building or construction.

Chairman Jasinski stated letters have been received and concerned residents in the area are asking questions. She also stated the biggest concern was the shooting range. She wanted to also know what type of events he planned to have and how long would he hold an event. Mr. Lewis stated 2 different sides of the house the shooting range and the events, the shooting range would have its own events, examples were competitions and open houses, he wants to see it run like a regular gun club and be opened 7 days a week, Chairman Jasinski stated every day shooting is a lot. Mr. Lewis stated that most of the gun clubs in the area only have one night a week where they do trap/sheet shooting, the club that he belonged to was open every day of the week for people to come in and shoot. Mr. Lewis stated he would like to emulate after the Rochester Brooks which is located in Rush NY.

He was asked by Brooks Hawley what kind of guns he will be allowing at the range. Mr. Lewis stated that any type of gun would be allowed, and that local law enforcement could use this facility as well. Don Partridge asked about staffing for 7 days a week. Mr. Lewis answered it would be a mixed model of operation and the shooting range would be a private club. Mr. Lewis stated the intent is Monday through Friday during the work week it would only be opened to members. In order to be a member of the club you would need to take a very extensive safety class and you would essentially become NRA certified. Every certified club member would be a certified range safety officer. There will be staff there, on Saturday and Sunday range safety officers would be there as well. Pro shop on site along with instructors on site to teaching as well.

Paul McCullough asked what the normal operating hours would be, 9-5 or dusk to dawn. Mr. Lewis stated that target shooting for 4/6/2021-RegularMtg

people would be dusk to dawn, but would consider opening later in the day, if that is a big concern of neighbors especially on the weekends. Depending on the interest and activities we are doing then it would probably be dusk. Another area would be night/low level shooting for law enforcement and civilian, it would be a scheduled event and would put notice out.

Jonathan Long asked about the location of the shooting range and what safe guards are being implemented. Are you bringing in fill for a back drop, or are there timber ties or something like that and what is the intent? Mr. Lewis stated there are several different approaches there are several pistol bays that are using the land as it naturally sits, and enhancing with ballistic rubber. Mr. Lewis stated using the ballistic rubber makes it safe, increased berm depth and easier to clean. Remediation and keeping tabs on the lead are important for not hurting the environment.

Paul Marchese stated Mr. Lewis needs defined tasks on how he plans to do it, and that the Planning Board cannot give a cart blanche to do what you want. The Planning Board needs detailed times and dates, Paul referenced Area 51 having a set schedule and comes in every year for approval of the schedule. Paul is also concerned with the noise of the guns; what kind of guns are to be allowed. He also brought up the 7 days shooting and Paul McCullough also has concerns about that as well as well as how long the shooting will go on in anyone single day along with the constant noise of the guns. Paul McCullough would like to know what days and hours for shooting so the neighbors can be informed of this. Mr. Lewis acknowledged these are valid concerns and they would do a schedule. Don Partridge stated that the Planning Board will need to limit the hours and week days versus weekends. Don also asked how many times a month there would a need for dusk hours. Mr. Lewis stated he would work together with the Planning Board to come up with dates and times that would work for later hours.

Steve Tanner had a question on the SEQR, since there are multiple uses on the property is it done on the entire project or is it segmented. Concern about the depth of the SEQR for the shooting range versus the other uses. Dan Lang answered this is a Type 1 Action with coordinated review due to the full scope of the project. This project would fall under Part I Long Form SEQR. There is both negative and positive feedback on this project. Per Dan it will be a long form SEQR with environmental impacts through this process and what those questions and concerns will be will come out through this process.

Steve Mountain told Mr. Lewis to be as descriptive on the operations as he can be and that the Planning Board is going to need more information from him before a decision can be made.

Chairman Jasinski advised the Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday April 20th, 2021 at 7:00 pm and there will be no decision made on this project at that time. Dan will bring up at the Public Hearing the letters and phone calls they have received as that is the time and place to do that.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Report.

Dan Lang – there are 2 items going to County Planning.

Dickinson Auto – Outdoor truck storage – variance needed.

Chipotle Mexican Grill – going into where Metro Mattress was. Special Use Permit for their Drive Thru.

Chairman Report.

Next meeting will April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Will be dealing with the Batavia Solar Project – College Road – SEQR and Special Use Permit.

Chipotle – Set Public Hearing – Requesting a Special Use Permit.

Sharon stated she had nothing to add.

Brooks Hawley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Seconded by Paul Marchese.

Vote unanimous for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim McCullough
Secretary

Kathleen Jasinski
Chairman