
Planning Board Minutes
January 4, 2024

Planning Board Members Present: Julie Pellett, Daniel Compton, Dan Morley, Kimberly Duvall, Michelle Rhoda
Absent: Michael Woodruff
Others Present: Kimberly Rayburn (Building and Zoning), Christel Daggett (Secretary), Brian Westlake, Kimberly Gebo (potential Planning Board members)

Pellett opened the meeting at 7:40 pm.

I. Interviews:

Interviews with two interested applicants to serve as a Planning Board member and an alternate Planning Board member for the current openings on the Planning Board.

Brian Westlake has shown an interest in serving on the Planning Board. He sent a letter of interest and resume to the Planning Board Secretary. Compton asked Westlake why he would like to be on the Planning Board. Westlake stated that he and his family moved to East Bloomfield 8 years ago. Westlake stated that he grew up in Elbridge, New York. Bloomfield reminds him of his hometown so, when he moved here, he embraced the environment. He stated the more he gets to know about the town he feels he could help contribute to sustaining and growing where he can, and that entices him.

Morley asked Westlake if he had any experience dealing with groups of people having opposing opinions and decisions that he may not like? Westlake stated that he works for the VA Finger lakes Healthcare System in Rochester. His role is Chief of Clinical and Strategic Development. He is a Physical therapist by training but with the VA he holds more of an administrative role which entails working across all clinical areas whether it's primary, specialty, rehab, and mental health care. Setting up clinics where he manages different areas and interacts with different people gives him experience with that. In each location there are all different environments, so he has to know when he goes into these environments if he is going to be successful. He has to treat everyone a little differently and adapt. It is what he does every day and works with several groups so strategic planning is one of the skills he can bring to the Board and apply them to the town.

Rhoda asked Westlake what kind of improvements he would like to see in Bloomfield. Westlake stated that he has two daughters. One graduated and the other is a Senior this year. He thinks the district is the centerpiece of the community and from what he has been educated about is if you have 100 students per grade, that will then allow funding to be coming in at a commensurate rate with programming that could be done. The number of students per grade is about 65-70 if you get to 100 students per grade the state aide that comes in is substantial if you are below that then it's not that much but if you're too high above that then you don't have enough aide to support the population. One of the things he is interested in is what could be done in the town that could attract more citizens to get to that level. Westlake said Bloomfield has a Dollar General and newer gas station, but it has that old town feel. He wouldn't like to see Bloomfield become Victor or Farmington.

Morley asked Westlake if there was anything in particular that interested him in wanting to join the Planning Board. Westlake stated that he is interested in how to understand what it takes to plan a town, what kind of thought processes go into planning, what we see both from a residential or commercial perspective.

The Board thanked Brian Westlake for his interest in the Planning Board. There were no further questions. The Board started the next interview with Kimberly Gebo.

Kimberly Gebo has shown an interest in serving on the Planning Board. She sent a letter of interest and resume to the Planning Board Secretary. Compton asked Gebo to introduce herself and why she would like to be on the Planning Board. Gebo stated that she and her daughter moved into Bloomfield 5 years ago.

Gebo is currently the Chair for the Village Zoning Board of Appeals for the Village of Bloomfield. She started out on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Livonia. Gebo was on the Board for 8 years and lived in Hemlock for 30 years. Gebo stated she is interested in the Planning Board to start a new endeavor. She has never been on a Planning Board but has dealt with the Planning Board in Livonia and here in the Village of Bloomfield when they need her interpretation. Gebo currently works for Eastman Kodak as a Senior Quality Manager. Gebo can read drawings, site maps, and has understanding of maps.

Morley asked Gebo with her experience on the Zoning Board, the experience with of the Planning Board how does she react when variance requests come through with no comments from the Planning Board or suggesting that you do it when it clearly says that you can't do that kind of stuff. How do you deal with that at the zoning level? Morley stated that they often send requests to the Zoning Board with comments and wonder what the reaction is at the Zoning Board level.

Gebo stated that they take it for what is presented to them if there are any comments. Gebo stated that the Planning Board has a duty to keep the best interest of people and how it is going to impact the look, the feel and how things operate. As far as the Zoning Board is concerned, it's more like the police officers. Begging for mercy on setbacks its not so much" is it going to look good? " They have SEQR and have to ask questions for example if someone is looking to build a garage and they want to build it a foot off the property line but there's a whole yard before the next building, you also look at the lay of the land and how's it going to impact. Is it excessive? Can they do something other than asking for that kind of leniency for a variance? Morley stated that was the answer he was looking for was just that, the differentiation between the two. They do that very often where they think it has a reasonable impact, Let's see what the Zoning Board thinks about that kind of thing. Rayburn stated the Zoning Board has specific state criteria that they have to follow.

Compton asked if Gebo is allowed to be on both Boards. Rayburn stated that she asked the question to Katie Hodgdon Association of Towns. Hodgdon's response was "*There is no incompatibility in serving on both Boards, although the individual may have to recuse themselves in the event that a matter appears before them that they opined as a member of the other Board.*"

The Board thanked Kimberly Gebo for her interest in the Planning Board. There were no further questions.

The Planning Board Chair will send a letter to the Town Board with their recommendations for appointments.

II. Discussion:

There was a brief discussion about meeting dates and times. The Board agreed to keep the meeting days and times as they are.

III. Meeting Adjourned

**Morley motioned and Rhoda seconded to adjourn @ 8:45 pm.
All Board members present voted Aye, Vote was carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christel Daggett
Planning & Zoning Board Secretary