

**TOWN
OF
FORESTPORT**

**PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING MINUTES
For
March 10, 2014**

**PUBLIC HEARING
HOWARD, Patrick & Karen
“Qwackle Farm”
Proposed – New Business
(farm operation and computer web design)
19.000-1-8
Planning Board
6:00 P.M.**

**Forestport Town Hall
Woodhull Road
Forestport, NY 13338**

PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.
PUBLIC HEARING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Donald Graff, Chairman
Dan Gilmore, Co-Chairman
Ginger Swasey
Harold Entwistle III

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Privett

Kim Kratzenberg, Clerk

1. Call Public Hearing to order:

- The March 10, 2014 Planning Board Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Graff at 6:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

- Recited

3. Read Observer Dispatch Ad & Property Owner's Letter:

- Chairman Graff read the newspaper legal ad and the Property Owner's letter

4. Representative to Speak:

- Patrick and Karen Howard were present for this matter.

5. Public to speak:

- Chairman Graff did receive a phone call on February 26, 2014 from Hazel Sears. She stated that she has concerns regarding the confinement of the animals and has an issue with various animals being in the roadway.
- Hazel Sears had three comments - allowing the animals to be in the roadway is not fair to 1) Vehicle operators; 2) the neighbors; 3) the animals themselves;
- Karen Howard stated that the animals being in the roadway has been rectified by installing an electric fence last year.
- Karen Howard stated that they have rabbits, domesticated geese, free range chickens and goats. They had a bull last

year but have since gotten rid of the bull. Karen also stated that the geese are usually contained but they do get out on occasion.

- The Howards have 14 goats on site that are all corralled in a pen with an electric fence.
- Patrick Howard stated that the rabbits were in a pen until a bear came onto the property and tore the pen apart. The rabbits escaped and the Howards thought the rabbits to have perished until they started seeing numerous rabbits around again. They cannot control the fact that the rabbits have since multiplied.
- The Howards stated that the free range chickens do not go in the road.
- The Howards stated that no chickens or geese ever got hit in the roadway – only rabbits and deer.
- The Board questioned the layout of their sign. The Howards stated that they intend to be in compliance with the Town of Forestport Site Review Law.
- Member Swasey asked the Howards if their homeowners insurance would cover an auto accident that would occur because of their animals in the road. Patrick Howard stated that New York State has now law saying that animals have to be contained.
- Member Swasey suggested that possibly the Howards install signs before and after both sides of their property to put people on notice to slow down and be aware of animals ahead. The Howards said that they contacted the County because Bear Creek Road is a county road and the county stated that the posted speed limit is 40 mph and if people drove the speed limit there should not be any problems.

6. Adjourn Public Hearing:

- The public hearing for Patrick and Karen Howard “Qwackle Farm” was adjourned at 6:15 P.M. by Chairman Graff.