

PLANNING BOARD MEETING-DRAFT

On May 7, 2026, the regular meeting of the Springfield Planning Board was held at the community center at 129 County Highway 29A in Springfield Center, NY.

Present: Henry Miller, Chairman; Denis Cimbal, Arlene Druse, Theresa Pullis, Jeannette Armstrong, Gretchen Sorin-absent.

Guests: Ervin Stutzman, Willis Stutzman, Mark Stutzman Sr., Mark Stutzman Jr., Regina Oakes, Andrea House, Erik House, Jean Krause, Martha Oakley, Lluís Torrent, Dennis Dorn.

Miller called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CIMBAL AND SECONDED BY DRUSE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

Miller did not present a physical ZEO Report but said he spent time on the solar farm, the new lakeshore law and the website.

Another packet of information was received and added to the original application for the solar farm. A MOTION WAS MADE BY CIMBAL AND SECONDED BY PULLIS TO CONSIDER THE SOLAR FARM APPLICATION COMPLETE. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

A special use permit is required for a new Amish School. It will be located on the corner of Hinds Road and Texas Road. Presently Mark Stutzman Sr. owns the five-acre parcel of land where the school will be built. The 911 address is 157 Hinds Road. Springfield Center, NY. There are rare animals and plants, but it has been active pastureland and farmed for years. There are no buildings there at the present time. It is eligible under the Historic District and the Springfield Patent. According to SEQRA there are no environmental or wetland issues. It will be a Type II Action. A couple of building permits will be needed. A permanent septic system that will be pumped out, that has been approved by the Department of Health. There

will be a 24x 46 single story structure built, with a walk-out basement and porch. Since it is on the corner lot, there will be access from both Texas Road and Hinds Road.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PULLIS AND SECONDED BY CIMBAL TO CLOSE THE REGULAR MEETING AND OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING. Voted, carried, all votes aye. No comments were made at the public hearing. A MOTION WAS MADE BY PULLIS AND SECONDED BY CIMBAL TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND RE-OPEN THE REGULAR MEETING. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CIMBAL AND SECONDED BY DRUSE TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR THE AMISH SCHOOL. Voted, carried, all votes aye. Miller directed Stutzman's to get their permits from the county.

Miller said the board would be discussing the solar farm and the environmental impact on the town. There will be some review of Part II and issues to work out. The project is on County Route 29A and it's uphill on the old sheep farm owned by Krause and is prime farmland. There will be 22 acres of panels that roll with the terrain. One field gets steep toward the end. There are wetlands and stream crossings to consider. Lluís Torrent presented the slide show on the project. He described a 10x5' box culvert that will be installed across the larger stream and the land there will be raised 6'. On the smaller stream the land will be raised only 4'. The box culverts will have a 4' concrete base. There is concern for the preservation of the Monarch butterfly. Soil composition, impact on the land, solar modules, water flow and erosion, use of swail, French drains, the spreader system, water filtration over stones near the wetlands, access roads, were all discussed. No battery storage is proposed.

When the board discussed Part II of SEQRA, no comments from the floor were allowed. Referring to a map, Miller discussed soil types by color. He wants the topsoil to be left intact so that farming can take place after the panels are removed. In Part I of SEQRA Miller had a couple issues. Some

spots of concern have a 15% slope and are to be mitigated. Surface water and the drip edge of panels are major erosion concerns. After it is removed, the hedgerow area is to be re-seeded with native grass or replaced with sod.

The board will consider the impact on agricultural resources. Under Part II, there is little to no impact on geological features, but there is impact on surface water. Flooding, air quality, plants and animals, aesthetic resources, history, open space and recreation, and transportation, have little to no impact. In fact, it's a rather benign project. Energy will be made and there will only be noise during the time of installation of the panels. It's part of our community plan and matches our solar law. The community does not seem to have objections. Under Part III, there are a few spots near the hedgerow close to the wetland and fence, where it is muddy. Miller would like the fence placed next to the wetland, so mowing won't be necessary there. The SPEDES storm water plan and DEC guidelines were discussed. No permit is required from DEC. At this point, Miller is waiting for a response from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the stream crossings. There was discussion about decommissioning when the project is complete. There will be a public hearing in June and another in August for a special use permit and site plan review.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PULLIS AND SECONDED BY DRUSE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:45 PM. Voted, carried, all votes aye.

Jeannette Armstrong, Town Clerk and Recording Secretary