

Joint Planning Board Meeting  
October 25, 2022

The meeting of the Joint Planning Board of LeSauk Township and the City of Sartell was called to order by Chairman Dan Heim at 5:15 p.m. at the Sartell Community Center, Liberty Room.

**PRESENT: LeSauk Township Supervisors Dan Heim, Jeff Westerlund and Shawn Omann, City of Sartell Joint Planning Board members, Jeff Kolb, Tim Elness and Alex Lewandowski, Sartell Assistant Administrator Scott Saehr, Sartell Planning Director Kari Theisen, Recording Secretary Marlyce Plante and 4 interested parties.**

**AGENDA:** TIM ELNESS MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECOND BY SHAWN OMANN, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

#### **APPROVAL OF 4-26-22 JOINT PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

DAN HEIM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE 4-26-22 JOINT PLANNING BOARD MINUTES AS AMENDED, SECOND BY JEFF WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 5-0. Alex Lewandowski abstained since he was not present at the meeting.

#### **Daryl & Nicole Garlock, 3775 Riverside Ave., Sartell – Public Hearing Variance**

Dan Heim read the public hearing notice and opened the public hearing to the floor. Daryl & Nicole Garlock would like to construct a 30 X 40 accessory building in their front yard. Mr. Garlock stated they do not have access to their rear yard unless an easement could be obtained from Kevin Traut to go through Spider Court onto the Traut property, then into the Garlock's rear yard. Mr. Garlock spoke with Mr. Traut who stated they are planning to sell. The Garlock's then felt it would be a better option to apply for a variance for an accessory building in the front yard.

The building will be stick built with siding that matches their present home. They are located on a 2.2-acre parcel and the building will not infringe on any septic system located on their parcel.

No oral or written comments were received by Recording Secretary Plante. Scott Saehr stated there were no concerns or comments from the city staff regarding the requested variance.

DAN HEIM MOTIONED TO CLOSE THE GARLOCK PUBLIC HEARING, SECOND BY SHAWN OMANN, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

DAN HEIM MOTIONED TO RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL RESOLUTION 2022-05 GRANTING A VARIANCE FOR DARYL & NICOLE GARLOCK TO CONSTRUCT A 30 X 40 ACCESSORY BUILDING TO BE PLACED IN THE FRONT YARD AT 3775 RIVERSIDE AVE., SECOND BY JEFF WESTERLUND, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Site Plan approval is done by the township board since this property is located in the A-20, RO-1 zoning district.

**Solar Garden Discussion:**

Evan Carlson of Enterprise Energy came before the Joint Planning Board to discuss a request he has received by township parcel owner, Ryan Fitzthum, to allow the placement of a 1-megawatt solar garden on approximately 8 acres of a 20-acre parcel Mr. Fitzthum owns in the township.

Mr. Carlson gave a brief synopsis of what a community solar garden entails, how the energy from the solar garden is distributed and answered general questions the board had.

Mr. Carlson had been informed the township ordinances only allow residential solar panels which prompted Mr. Carlson to attend this meeting and question what the process would be to allow a solar garden. Dan Heim, chairman of the town board, stated he had been in contact with the township attorney who verified that a solar garden is not allowed under the present township ordinances and a variance could not be applied for. Atty Gilchrist stated there were two possible options, an amendment to the township ordinances allowing a solar garden or annexing the property to the city of Sartell which allows solar gardens.

Jeff Westerlund stated he plans to attend an upcoming Stearns County Township Association meeting which is attended by township officers throughout Stearns County. He will ask township officers what other townships have in regards to ordinances regulating solar gardens and report at the next township meeting.

Scott Saehr, City of Sartell Assistant Administrator, spoke on behalf of the city. He stated a solar garden is an allowable use with conditions being set through city processes and regulations.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

JEFF WESTERLUND MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECOND BY TIM ELNESS, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Marlyce L. Plante,  
Joint Planning Board Recording Secretary