

**TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023
BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL**

Chairman Christina Lavieri called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were James Hart, Tom Andersen, Frank Kaczyinski and alternates Rejean Labrie, Paul Duran and Robert Pulford. Also present was Zoning Enforcement Officer, Debbie Brydon. Rejean Labrie was seated for John Polderman.

NEW APPLICATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

**A. PROPOSED ZONING REGULATION AMENDMENT FOR FARM
YOUTH CAMPS. AMEND ARTICLE II, SECTION 193-27A TABLE
OF USES AND ADD BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION ARTICLE VIII, 193-
63D FARMING AND AGRICULTURAL CAMPS FOR CHILDREN**

The public hearing opened at 7:05. The meeting was well attended. Chairman Lavieri asked for any comments in favor. Attorney Robert Reed, representing Sylvie Binette spoke in favor of the amendment as it is one of goals of the Plan of Conservation and Development to promote agriculture and any ancillary uses. Members of the public asked if this amendment would benefit the Town by bringing in tax revenue. Members of the public also asked the Commission members if they ever would have brought this amendment without an application from Sylvie Binette. Chairman Lavieri said no. Another question came up about the definition of “agriculture” and whether or not it would be used for each application. The PZC follows the State definition for agriculture. Most of the people attending this hearing had attended a previous Planning and Zoning meeting regarding the Farm Youth Camps and were very disappointed that after voicing their opinions on the age of the campers and the days of operation, ie., no Saturdays, that the PZC commission changed the hours in the amendment to include Saturday and increased the age of the campers to 17 years old. Everyone attending the meeting also felt this type of youth camp wherever they might be located in Town would require more volunteers for fire departments or ambulance or even police. Many people spoke against this proposed amendment.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:50 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Hart made a motion to approve the minutes from May 11, 2023, with a correction to show who voted in favor of the proposed amendment and who voted against the amendment, seconded by Andersen and unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS LEGAL AND PROPER TO COME BEFORE SAID MEETING: Staff advised the commission that she forgot to add the solar tracking tower amendment to this meeting and will do so for the next meeting on August 10th.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None, after the Public Hearing was closed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

James Hart
Secretary