

Town Board Public Hearing Minutes
Town of Morristown
07/11/2023

Present: Supervisor Frank Putman; Councilman Gary Turner; Councilman Dave VanArnam; Councilman Shawn Macaulay.

Absent: Councilman Chris Coffin.

Others Present: Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk, several community residents.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Putman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Shawn Macaulay and said by all.

Land Use Law and Regulations for the Town of Morristown Local Law #1 of 2023: The Town Ordinance has been revised as necessary. The revised copy had been sent to St. Lawrence County Planning Office for approval and suggestions. Some of the language was revised for better clarification. The biggest revision is the short-term rentals. Supervisor Putman asked for comments on the ordinance as revised.

There were questions about the 60-minute response for complaints to be resolved. The town is asking for the owners to be notified and respond within 60 minutes. The town is not expecting the owner to act in dangerous situations but to assess the situation and call the law or the authority if needed and take the appropriate step to resolve the situation in a safe manner. The 60-minute response time came as a suggestion from St. Lawrence County.

A resident was unaware of the revisions and just learned about it so has not had a chance to read the ordinance or able to find anything on the website. She asked if the Town could hold off acting on this item. Supervisor Putman stated that action needs to be taken tonight since this has been going on for several months and a month's notice has been given for the Public Hearing and the document has been available online as well as in the Clerk's office. There was discussion about the website not being updated and that things not being on there. The town website is being worked on with updates to make it more user-friendly and better accessible.

There was discussion about the regulations and having to register a short-term rental with the county. All new short-term rentals must register when applying for the special permit, an engineered septic system is required, adequate parking is needed, and inspections will be done on a regular basis. Any existing short-term rentals can be grandfathered in by filling out paperwork and registering by December 31, 2023.

Joe Lightfoot stated that New York State is requiring that any short-term rentals be registered with the county and that bed and sales tax be paid. This is revenue for the town.

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Adjournment: Supervisor Putman asked for any other comments and with there being none he made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:33 pm seconded by Councilman Macaulay.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by:
Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk
July 2023