

York Planning Board
June 23, 2021 Minutes
York Town Hall

Present: Joe McIlroy, Chris Wall, Zach Kobylanski and Dave Dermody

Excused: Al Brightman

Others: Donna Falkner, Carl Peter, Kirk Richenberg, Becky Lewis, Ned & Martha Edwards, Davies & Heather Nagel, Ron Rossborough

7:30 pm – Mr. McIlroy opened the planning board meeting and led the pledge. The May minutes were tabled until the July meeting because Mr. Brabant and Mr. Campbell did not respond to Ms. Falkner's questions about several sentences.

Everyone received a copy of Becky Lewis' letter.

June 22, 2021

To the York Planning Board,

First, I would like to commend you for requiring the proposed truck stop project to submit a full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), rather than the short form. I believe that the proposed project warrants the highest level of scrutiny regarding potential negative environmental impacts on the health of school children, faculty, and staff, as well as neighboring residents. The best way to ensure a thorough analysis is to require an Environmental Impact Study (EIS).

In addition to significant issues of pedestrian safety due to increased traffic and new traffic patterns, the proposed project can reasonably be expected to result in substantial changes in air quality, water quality, and traffic and noise levels. The proposed project would also have an impact on residents along Rt. 63 as it traverses Livingston County, with increased traffic and the resulting air and noise pollution, including the noise, dust, and traffic interruptions that would take place during construction.

In the SEQR process, you are required to identify all relevant environmental impacts, thoroughly analyze these potential impacts, and provide a written explanation as to why you have determined whether the project may cause significant adverse environmental impacts. As you engage in this process, I urge you to carefully consider the following potential harms that could result from the proposed truck stop in our town. As SEQR regulations note, all potential impacts considered as a whole may be grounds for a positive determination, even if each individual impact would not rise to that level.

As presented, the proposed project will increase air pollution due to increased diesel exhaust, as trucks idle waiting for the light, waiting to turn left into the truck stop, while in the truck stop, waiting to turn left onto Rt. 36, and waiting to turn left back onto Rt. 63. Diesel exhaust contains particulates that are too small to be expelled by our lungs, as well as benzene, arsenic, and nitrogen oxides. It is well documented that families living next to truck stops (and children, faculty, and staff in a school next to a truck stop) are especially vulnerable to high levels of diesel exhaust. Long-term effects of breathing diesel exhaust include increased cancer, asthma, allergies, lung infections, heart problems, and emergency room visits and hospital admissions. It is recommended that schools located near significant sources of diesel exhaust have additional indoor filtration systems to protect against particulate materials. Since York Central School does not have air conditioning and windows are often open, the dangers from air and noise pollution are even greater.

Increased truck traffic and idling will also result in increased noise pollution. Research has shown that noise has detrimental effects on children’s academic performance, including reduced memory, motivation, and reading ability. It also affects teachers’ ability to teach effectively. In addition to the increased air pollution from diesel and gasoline emissions, and noise pollution from the increased truck traffic, the proposed truck stop has the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts on ground water. As currently proposed, the project would dump water contaminated with petroleum, road salt, and sediment from the stormwater management pond into Bidwell Creek. The proposed location is known to have poor drainage, which will be exacerbated by 4.7 acres of pavement.

Another consideration is the plan to cut down 3 acres of woods to make room for the stormwater management pond. This will have a significant impact on habitat for endangered and threatened species of birds known to inhabit the area.

These potential environmental impacts should be studied thoroughly before any permit is issued. The best way to ensure that all potential adverse impacts are identified and addressed is to require an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) before making a final determination on the permit for the proposed project.

I urge the York Planning Board to make a positive declaration that the project may cause significant adverse environmental harms.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Lewis
Linwood, NY

Mr. McIlroy said that we needed a vice-chairman because he would be out of town July 28.

Resolution:

Mr. Kobylanski moved to make Mr. Wall vice chairman and Mr. Dermody seconded, carried.

Aye – 4 Nay - 0

Mr. McIlroy said that he would like submission dates for the meetings like the county does so that we can receive the information in a timely matter, instead of getting information at the last minute. He provided two sets, one for the Monday before the meeting which would only be 9 days and one set for the Friday before.

Mr. Kobylanski liked the idea and said it’s more definitive. The board by consensus agreed on submission dates. Mr. Wall liked the Friday before because it was a little more time to get the information in. Mr. Dermody agreed.

Resolution:

Mr. Dermody moved to have the submission date two Fridays before the meeting, Mr. Kobylanski seconded, carried.

Aye – 4 Nay - 0

TOWN OF YORK Planning Board 2021

	Submission Date	Meeting Date
July	Friday, July 16	Wednesday, July 28
August	Friday, August 13	Wednesday, August 25

September	Friday, September 10	Wednesday, September 22
October	Friday, October 15	Wednesday, October 27
November	Friday, November 12	Wednesday, November 24
December	Friday, December 10	Wednesday, December 22

Paperwork must be received by 5 pm on the submission date to allow for review.

Mr. Rossborough withdrew his application for flea market.

Mr. Wall brought a preliminary format for Battery Storage before it gets turned in to the Town Board. They had their last meeting last month. Because of the technology there is a lot of movement with it.

Mr. McIlroy said it will go to the Town Board to make a local law. Mr. Wall is looking for input and will sit with the Town Board. Mr. McIlroy asked if the Planning Board could also sit in on the meeting. Mr. Wall also has it digitally but will leave the binder at the Town Hall for people to come in and look at. Mr. McIlroy asked if it is allowed in the town. Mr. Wall said they didn't make that decision, the Town Board can. Mr. Wall said it will already be outdated by the time the law gets written.

Resolution

Mr. Wall moved to adjourn at 7:45 pm, Mr. Dermody seconded, all in favor, carried.

Aye – 4 Nay – 0

Respectfully Submitted
Donna Falkner
Clerk