

**Village of Fort Edward  
Planning Board Meeting  
Date: October 22, 2024**

**Roll Call:** Bernie Taylor, Nasrene Haj, Tadgh Nealon, Doreen Rabine  
**Absent:** Tabitha Fish

**Approval Minutes from September**

**Motion by:**

**Seconded by:**

**Summary**

The meeting focused on discussing the variance request for keeping chickens in the village, addressing health concerns, community impact, and environmental assessments. Key decisions and action items include evaluating the implications of granting the variance and conducting an environmental assessment before voting. Additionally, the meeting assessed the potential environmental impacts of a proposed action and discussed a boundary line adjustment. A decision was made to deny the variance request for keeping chickens on the property due to concerns about future property ownership and compliance with regulations.

**📄 Outline**

**1. Introduction and Personal Insights •**

- Applicant themselves and shared their experience living in Port Edward for four years.
- Applicant also discussed their health issues related to Hashimoto's disease and the benefits of raising chickens for organic eggs and meat.

**2. Discussion on Chicken Bylaw •**

- Speaker 2 clarified that a bylaw from 1960 prohibits fowl animals in the village, but a variance is being requested.
- Speaker 3 expressed concerns about the implications of granting the variance and the potential for increased noise and smell from chickens.

**3. Community Concerns •**

- Speaker 3 raised concerns about the impact of chickens on neighborhood peace and the potential for more variance requests in the future.
- Several speakers voiced their opposition to the variance, citing issues with noise and property enjoyment.

**4. Environmental Assessment Discussion •**

- The board discussed the need to complete an environmental assessment form before making a decision on the variance.
- Various impacts were evaluated, including potential conflicts with land use plans and changes in community character.

**5. Environmental Impact Assessment •**

- The proposed action may impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural, or aesthetic resources.
- There is a potential for adverse changes to natural resources, including wetlands, water bodies, and air quality.
- The action may increase the potential for erosion, flooding, or drainage problems, with a moderate risk identified.
- A public hearing is required to gather more information before making a decision on the environmental impact.

**6. Variance Request for Chickens •**

- The board discussed the implications of issuing a variance for keeping chickens, noting that it would remain with the property regardless of future owners.
- Concerns were raised about the potential for new owners not maintaining the chickens properly, leading to neighborhood issues.
- The board voted to deny the variance request, emphasizing the importance of community standards and regulations.

- Residents were encouraged to approach the village board for further discussions on the matter.

**7. Boundary Line Adjustment •**

- A boundary line adjustment was proposed between two property owners, allowing one to sell a portion of their land to the other.
- The board reviewed the proposal and found no issues, agreeing to sign the necessary documents.
- All members present expressed their support for the adjustment, indicating a unanimous agreement.