

**Village of Fort Edward**  
**Board of Trustees – Public Hearing**  
**Monday, July 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Trustee Williams, Trustee Carpenter, Trustee Cutler, Trustee Boucher

**Absent:**

**Present:** Matthew Rimkunas, Rob Martin, Rick Doty, Melanie Dickinson, Mike Dickinson, Therese Gillis, Jessica Donnelly, Amanda Durkee, Kyle Cozzens, John Weber, Frank Burkhardt, Doreen Rabine, Dave Armando.

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The mayor opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW CHAPTER 350 “MOTEL”**

The meeting focused on updating the definition of motels in local law to ensure they are used for transient lodging rather than long-term stays, while addressing concerns raised by the Washington County Planning Agency regarding potential impacts on emergency housing services. The board plans to vote on the proposed changes at the next regular meeting.

**Outline**

1. Update on Motel Definition

- The current definition of a motel is being reviewed to ensure it aligns with modern usage and restricts long-term stays.
- The goal is to clarify that motels in the village are intended for part-time use only, not permanent residency.

2. Washington County Planning Agency Response

- The Washington County Planning Agency disapproved of the proposed amendment due to concerns about its negative impact on emergency housing services.
- The agency highlighted that restricting motel usage could strain county resources and complicate housing solutions for vulnerable populations.

3. Discussion on Local Law Changes

- The board discussed the implications of the county's binding recommendation and the need for a supermajority vote to proceed with changes contrary to the county's advice.
- Concerns were raised about the county's current practices regarding housing and the need for better planning to support tourism in the village.

4. Public Input and Next Steps

- The board encouraged public comments on the proposed changes to the local law to ensure community input is considered.

**Kyle Cozzens – Everygreen Bicycle Works**

Kyle expressed his agreement with the proposed changes to the local law explaining that we have a lot of cyclists, boaters and tourists coming through Fort Edward and with no lodging, it's hard for them to be able to stay here and patron our businesses.

- A motion was made to close the public hearing, by **Trustee Carpenter**, seconded by **Trustee Cutler** with plans to vote on the amendment at the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Rose  
Village Clerk-Treasurer