

Town of New Bremen  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
May 28, 2024  
6:00 PM

## **Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Jessica Clemons, Jon Roes, McKenzie Lehman  
**Also Present:** Tom Kovach, Tim Lee, Garrett Schell

### **I. Roll Call**

- a. Chairwoman Jessica Clemons called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

### **II. Public Hearing**

### **III. General Public Comments**

### **IV. Old Business**

### **V. Correspondence**

#### **a. Emails received in response to request for comments**

Since the last meeting, the Town of New Bremen website was updated to include a request for comment from Town of New Bremen residents with a new email for the Zoning Board. So far, one email has been received discussing concern for tree clearing on a neighboring property with the presumed purpose of a future solar farm. The resident is concerned for their view, property value, and risk for contamination.

The ZBA would like to publicize the request for comments more. Jon will reach out to the fire departments, and McKenzie will reach out to Linking Lewis County. Flyers could also be hung in local establishments.

### **VI. New Business**

#### **a. Comprehensive Plan**

The Town of New Bremen Planning Board was invited to the meeting to discuss partnering with the Zoning Board to update the Comprehensive Plan. The ZBA explained the reasoning for the update is because the current plan is out of date, and the plan should be updated every five to 10 years.

At least three members of the Planning Board are interested in assisting with updating the Comprehensive Plan. It is currently unclear if a formal committee needs to be formed, so this will be further researched prior to moving forward with the formation of a committee or the next Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings.

**b. Survey to New Bremen Residents**

As discussed in the last meeting, the ZBA would like to prepare a survey to include in the Comprehensive Plan. Both the Planning Board and the ZBA agreed that it would help guide the update of the Comprehensive Plan and ensure the correct topics are being addressed.

The ZBA had discussed having the survey available through the Town website, but it was mentioned that only having the survey available online may prevent a large number of people in participating. Jess previously reached out to the Town about a mailing campaign budget. While there is currently no printing budget, it may still be a possibility. This should be discussed further as the survey is prepared.

**c. Miscellaneous**

Another discussion was held regarding the solar fire on the Brewery Road. It has since been determined that solar plans require that local fire departments receive training. Since this does not appear to be occurring, it was questioned whether there could be a clause requiring a sign off by local fire chiefs stating that they have been adequately trained prior to projects moving forward and/or whether permits can be withheld until training is completed. Fire departments need both general and site-specific training for each project to ensure the safety of the public and themselves.

Once it is determined how the two boards should move forward with updating the Comprehensive Plan, a meeting date can be determined.

**VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.