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## Plan Commission Meeting Minutes 3-8-23

Attendees: Chair Sarajane Snyder, Josh McDonald, Rob Borski, Brian Hamm  
(Town Board Members Rhonda Carrell, Gail Kretschmer, Bill Leichtnam, Roger Wilcox)  
(Representatives from the GRAEF Consultant Team)

Snyder called the “Joint” meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was declared present.

### Public Comments:

- One resident expressed concern that young people will not be able to afford to purchase land in Saratoga if minimum lot sizes are increased.
- One resident, in response to a prior discussion regarding the creation of elderly housing, expressed her opinion that Saratoga cannot be held responsible for providing transportation.
- One resident expressed a low interest/confidence in bringing in low income or elderly housing. He was also concerned with the overall affordability of housing.
- One resident expressed their opinion that most Saratogans are here, as he is, to enjoy a quiet, rural existence without the incoming growth that he is seeing.
- One resident expressed much frustration in ease in accessing the surveys.

**Motion by McDonald to approve the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Borski. All approved.**

GRAEF Reps handed out a packet titled “Saratoga Sustainable Energy Economic Development Strategy”. They explained survey results for questions 18 and 22 pertaining to the resident’s opinion on desired levels and types of growth, and were confident that despite a lower than desired survey response, that the numbers are “statistically representative” of the township.

GRAEF Reps gave a page-by-page, verbal explanation of the packet.

Snyder presented GRAEF with a list of potential ideas for economic growth. (This list was compiled during an informal discussion prior to the meeting, attended by the Town Board, Plan Commission and the public).

Borski presented GRAEF with an updated copy of the Plan Commission’s current (not finalized), ordinances pertaining to Commercial Building Standards.

A lengthy discussion ensued between GRAEF and the group, covering a wide range of topics and concerns including, but not limited to:

- Connection of scenic river corridor segments
- How to improve bike routes with grants/easements
- Designating certain areas for development of multi-family housing
- Guidance, examples, plus/minus effect of PUDs (Planned Unit Developments) in rural areas

- Setting of boundaries regarding development in Rural Preservation Zones
- Emphasis on Zoning and Ordinance compatibility with Development Strategy, the “rulebook” needs to be clear for potential developers.
- Leichtnam expressed frustration with GRAEF’s time table for project completion and how potential eligibility for grants may be affected.
- Snyder expressed concern regarding deadlines and lack of communication.
- All agreed to get their thoughts on the current draft to Snyder by 3/22.
- GRAEF requested the date of 4/5 to update current draft, and committed to sending out to all PRIOR to a joint meeting scheduled for 4/12.

Plan Commission members agreed that focus on zoning and ordinances should be our priority, and a meeting would be set for 3/22 (likely to commence after the Savion Solar presentation).

**Motion to adjourn by Snyder. 2<sup>nd</sup> by McDonald. Motion passed unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:32p.m.**