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P.O. Box 134, 7209 Rte. 28, Shandaken, NY 12480

Town of Shandaken Planning Board
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
May 9, 2018

Public Hearing – ESRM/Rail Explorers:

The Empire State Railway Museum has applied for a site plan review of the placement of three temporary structures on their property located at 70 Lower High St. for seasonal use by Rail Explorers. The three structures, per Mr. Paul LaPierre of ESRM, include one shed that's 10x20 and will be anchored to the ground due to it being in a floodplain zone, but can be removed. Shed will be used for retail. The other two will be a bathroom trailer and a trailer for the crew. There were many neighbors present for the hearing with many concerns that Mrs. Michelle Davis, Divisions Manager of REX was happy to answer.

There are 9 rail bikes, 6 of the bikes are two-seaters, and 3 bikes are four-seaters. There will be 20 passengers per tour, each tour with 4 guides that go out with them. Tour times will be 10/12/2/4 and last a little less than 2 hours long. No exterior lighting will be added to the ESRM property because the tours will not be conducted after the sun goes down. The parking lot will have an attendant stationed there to show riders where to park. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, they'll be running tours Thurs-Sun, 4 days a week for spring season. Starting in July, they'll be running tours 7 days a week at the allotted tour times. After Labor Day they'll return to 4 days a week for the fall foliage season. If there ends up not being a demand in this area for the rail explorers, then they will pull tours. This is Stage 1 of their plan to see how the operations run. At the beginning of every tour there's a mandatory 5 minute safety course given to the riders. Once they're seated, they cannot get on or off the bikes until the end of the ride where they turn the bikes around to go back to Phoenicia. They are told that if you're walking on the rail lines it's trespassing. All of the staff is trained through TCS and FRA. They also do an 8 hour on site training. There will be 4 crossings that will be manned by the trained staff. The Route 28 crossing will consist of a 4 person staff located at the crossing. The bikes leave the Phoenicia station one by one. When they reach the crossing at 28, every rail bike is stopped until all the bikes are at the crossing. Flaggers will then but the boon gates down, which can only be done manually, and make sure the cars begin to stop. The gates can never be tripped by something on the rails. All of the bikes then cross 28 altogether at one time, taking about 90 seconds at most. Once they're across, the gates are then manually lifted so the stopped cars can proceed down 28. They then spread the bikes down Andrew Lane one by one. The bikes go about 4-5 MPH, about 200 yards apart and will be passing the houses for about 3 minutes. Some suggested that the line between the Emerson and the railroad crossing be changed to a double yellow to prevent people from trying to pass in that area. This would have to be taken up with the DOT. Mr. Tutt stated that their concerns were warranted, and that the noise, and litter etc. are stipulations in their contract with the County, and would have to answer to them if any of that became an issue. Some things may have to be tweaked as the rides

continue. Motion was made by Chair Brewer to close the public hearing, seconded by Board Member Kalb.

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Brewer at 8:05 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Roll called by Planning Board Secretary Anne Ricciardella, and attendance was recorded as follows:

Don Brewer, Chair	Present
Kathy Jordan, V. Chair	Present
Art Christie	Present
John Horn	Present
Joanne Kalb	Present
Allen Shiner	Present
Cliff Rabuffo	Present

Roll call summary: 7 Present,

Others present: Warren Tutt, Sam Spata, Paul LaPierre, Patty Hanson, J.R. &Michelle Davis–REX Divisions manager, Kathy Nolan, Tom Fraser, Hilary Leitner, Bob Kalb, Vivian Welton, Mary Joy Lu, Cheryl Formont, Maxanne Resnick, Ken & Robin Preuss

Communications:

None

Minutes:

Motion was made by Board Member Christie to accept the minutes from the regular April meeting and the special meeting as written, seconded by Board Member Kalb. All in favor.

Old Business:

Rail Explorers:

Board Member Kalb was concerned about the railroad crossing being sufficient enough for cars to stop on 28. Mary Joy assured her that they were DOT issued and includes whistles to make sure the people driving can hear them as well as see the gates crossing for them to stop. The Board would also like for the people leaving the parking lot to make a right on to High Street and exit towards Phoenicia. After no further questions from the Board, a motion was made by Board Member Kalb to accept the site plan application as submitted, with the addition of a right turn only exit sign, seconded by Board Member Shiner.

Roll call vote:

Kathy Jordan, V. Chair	Yes
Art Christie	Yes
John Horn	Yes
Joanne Kalb	Yes
Allen Shiner	Yes

Cliff Rabuffo	Yes
Don Brewer, Chair	Yes

Roll call summary: 7 yes

New Business:

Kathy Jordan will be resigning effective July 2018, Sam Spata will be replacing her, term to end December 31, 2021. Vivian Welton will then replace Mr. Spata as primary liaison to the County. Motion was made by Chair Brewer to have Mr. Spata replace Board Member Jordan beginning in July, and Vivian Welton to replace Mr. Spata, seconded by Board Member Shiner. All in favor.

Other Business:

County Liaison:

Mr. Spata present, included with minutes.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made for adjournment by Board Member Christie, seconded by Board Member Kalb. All in favor. The Town of Shandaken Planning Board regular meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 PM.



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P.O. Box 134, 7209 Rte. 28, Shandaken, NY 12480

Date: Regular meeting, May 9, 2018
 Time: 6:30 PM
 Place: Main Hall, Town Hall Building
Public Hearing: Empire State Railway Museum – Site plan for Rail Explorers

AGENDA

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call:

Don Brewer, Chair	___ present	___ absent
Kathy Jordan, Vice	___ present	___ absent
Art Christie	___ present	___ absent
John Horn	___ present	___ absent
Joanne Kalb	___ present	___ absent
Allen Shiner	___ present	___ absent
Cliff Rabuffo	___ present	___ absent

Quorum of _____ members present

4. Previous meeting minutes:

5. Communications:

None

6. Old Business:

- Rail Explorers – Site plan/application

7. New Business:

None

8. Other Business:

None

9. County Liaison Report:

10. Meeting Adjournment