

Cherryfield Planning Board Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2025
Regular meeting and workshop on Solar Facilities Ordinance

Board Members Present: Crystal Hitchings, Billie Jo Brooks, Kimberly Smith, Sue Dalton, Ryan Beal

Public Present: Mark Grant, Joan Milgram, Donald Saaf

Meeting Called to order at 6:00 pm.

Motion to approve April minutes by Crystal Hitchings, seconded by Sue Dalton, all in favor, motion passes.

Public comments:

There were questions from Joan Milgram and Donald Saaf on a permit they will submit to move a salvaged portion of a house on their property on New St. They intend to move to a slab and restore the structure and keep true to the surrounding architecture. Should be no problem with the plans as described.

New Business

Members present again discussed the concerns we have heard from residents on the proposed and currently permitted solar farms in the Town of Cherryfield. The survey that was mailed to residents and also available online was discussed. An overview of responses thus far of both paper and online submissions revealed that there are strong concerns from the community about possible loss of property value, loss of wildlife habitat and the visibility of solar arrays detracting from its surroundings. Concerning the regulation of solar arrays, there were varying responses from having no regulation/ordinance, allow them anywhere and should not be allowed anywhere. From this sampling of submissions, the majority were against industrial solar facilities anywhere within the town. A majority believe there should be size limits for all. The majority of submissions were also against large wind mills.

Old Business

As we work on updating the land use ordinance, some concerns that also will be a priority include abandoned buildings, signs not appropriate for use in town, livestock near major highways or schools and junkyards in town and elsewhere. Also discussed was a need to possibly develop a system for fines for noncompliance.

Adjourned at 7:15 pm.(motion by Kim Smith, seconded by Crystal Hitchings, all in favor, motion passes.

Crystal Hitchings _____

Billie Jo Brooks _____

Kimberly Smith _____

Sue Dalton _____

Ryan Beal _____