

EDMESTON PLANNING BOARD
EDMESTON, NY 13335
REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2003

Members Present: Planning Board Chairman: Jack Emmett
Planning Board Member: Jon LeChevet
Planning Board Member: John Parker
Planning Board Member: Paul Pritchard
Planning Board Member: William Rogers

Members Absent: None

Others Present: The Honorable Barbara Bateman;
Fred Ross, Sr.; Steven Chase; Don Nelson;
Brian Long; Richard Wust; Art Gates; John Wust;
Neil Smith; Brian Lund; Roy Schaetinger;
Patrick Hall.

Chairman Emmett called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. The public participants immediately went to the topic of the draft “Edmeston Junkyard Law” with concerns revolving around junk vehicles. The discussion was lively, long and dominated the agenda. The overriding concern of the public participants was that passage of the law would mean that nobody would be able to keep more than one junk vehicle.

The Planning Board advised the public participants that there already exists an “Automobile Junkyard Law” that has been put into effect by the State –of New York that makes it illegal for anyone to keep more than one junk vehicle without being licensed as an automobile junkyard. The advantages to the Town of Edmeston in enacting its own law would be:

- The fees would be adequate to cover the expenses of administration. The present \$25 fee does not cover Town costs.
- The Town Board would be able to grant waivers and exceptions that it presently cannot do.
- The Town Justice Court rather than State Court would have primary jurisdiction regarding the Law.
- The Law would broaden the definition of Junk to cover items other than automobiles.
- Fees and fines would revert to the Town rather than the State.

The public participants put forward several ideas that should be considered for incorporation in the next draft:

- The Town of Edmeston, rather than the owner of the vehicle, should pay to have junk vehicles removed
- The fees proposed are too high.
- Adopt a more reasonable limit – perhaps 50 cars before the law takes effect.
- Businesses that need junk vehicles to operate should be exempted.
- Fees should only be collected from “big operators” and not the small guy.
- The Town should reimburse people who would have a hardship to pay to have vehicles removed.
- There should be a set minimum acreage in order to operate an automobile junkyard.
- Only the Hamlets should have the one junk vehicle law.
- Collect fees for more than one junk vehicle on a sliding scale basis.
- Consider a “grandfather clause” that would allow people with junk cars to keep them.
- Publish the Planning Boards minutes and agenda on the Internet.
- People owning junk cars for the purpose of racing or demolition derbies should be exempt.

The Board advised that it would consider these suggestions at the December meeting and have a revised draft available for discussion at the January meeting.

The minute of the meeting of 15 October were read and approved with no changes. Chairman Emmet will report at the next meeting the results of his contacts with nearby towns and their laws/ordinances concerning trash. The next major task for the Board will be to consider Subdivision laws in 2004.

The next meeting was set for the 17th of December at 7:00 PM at the Municipal Building. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM.