

DRAFT

Pittsford Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting and Hearing Minutes  
October 21, 2024 7:00pm, Pittsford Town Offices (426 Plains Road)

ZBA Members Present: Stanley Markowski (chair), Charles Simpson, Edward Keith, Jr., Clarence Greeno, Jr., Nicholas Michael ZBA Members Absent: Richard Conway  
Also present: Joe Aja (State of VT), Michael Baribault (State of VT), Ann Reed, Jeff Biasuzzi (Zoning Administrator)

Open Meeting & Approval of Agenda:

S. Markowski opened the public meeting at 7:00pm and had everyone introduce themselves that was present. S. Markowski then read through the hearing agenda and notice for the application. There was motion by C. Greeno Jr. to approve the agenda as written, which was seconded by C. Simpson, Jr. Motion was carried 5-0.

Open Public Hearing on Application 24-33:

S. Markowski opened the Public Hearing on Application 24-33. Interested parties were sworn in by S. Markowski including Jeff Biasuzzi and Joe Aja.

S. Markowski asked J. Aja to explain his position. J. Aja explained he is the director of the designs for the storage container on the firing range.

S. Markowski then asked J. Biasuzzi to give any relevant information. J. Biasuzzi stated that the application is before the ZBA due to it being a Vermont State property. Per the Zoning Regulations, anything owned by the State of Vermont is considered conditional use and must have a hearing before the ZBA. He recommends the planning commission review this for the future.

J. Aja reminded the ZBA that 24 VSA §4413 limits the regulation of this storage unit. The statute was written out in a letter attached to the permit from Michael Baribault.

J. Biasuzzi stated this structure replaces another structure as an ammunition bunker. This will be closer to the firing range and be better than the current conditions the ammunition is being stored. The current ammunition bunker is historic.

M. Baribault entered the meeting via Zoom at this point and was sworn in by S. Markowski. He is the project manager for the State of Vermont.

S. Markowski went through the conditional uses. It is in a rural district, the academy is made up of firefighters, police, and criminal justice. This is for a firing range new storage container for the range. The old shed predates J. Aja, being at least 40 years old at the firing range. This storage container will not cause any increase to traffic and does not require any utilities. It is just a storage container.

J. Aja and M. Baribault both stated it is just a storage container with an unknown coloring.

J. Biasuzzi stated that they should have an earthtone color. He also asked if there was any effort for security of this storage unit, as they can be moved by equipment in the night.

It was stated there is a perimeter fence around the building that is 6-8 feet high and locked.

S. Markowski asked if it would be visible from the road.

J. Aja stated it would be to the left side of the firing range and would only maybe be seen if you are headed to the firefighter's house.

There is no additional lighting required for this storage container.

J. Aja stated that the ZBA could require screening or a neutral color even with VSA 24 section 4413. He also said they would like to get this installed ASAP.

J. Biasuzzi went over the timeline that it takes up to 45 days for the ZBA to make a decision, then ZBA has fourteen days to sign and give the results of the decision, and there is a 30 day warning period before anything can be done.

C. Greeno, Jr. moved to accept and approve the application. C. Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 to approve the application.

S. Markowski asked A. Reed to type up the findings of facts so they would be ready for J. Biasuzzi's office hours this week. S. Markowski will come sign them once they are ready.

C. Greeno moved to close the hearing, seconded by E. Keith. The hearing was closed at 7:35pm.

J. Biasuzzi gave a brief update on the ongoing Boondocks litigation, stating that the environmental court ruled in favor of the Town of Pittsford. The Town should be receiving monetary compensation for the legal expenses incurred through this process. Boondocks has already defaulted and a supplemental application to the environmental court for ceasing of operations and contempt of court are in the process. Act 250 has also now filed a Notice of Alleged Violation against Boondocks.

There was also discussion about the vacant seat on the ZBA. It was discussed that the ZBA may want to ask the selectboard to go down to a five person board, with one alternate. Several of the members have been on for more than 40 years and are interested in stepping down when their terms are up. S. Markowski has been on the ZBA for about 45 years and C. Simpson approximately 43 years.

J. Biasuzzi mentioned that the new owner of the commercial plaza by Bridge 108 is considering putting in between 9 to 24 dwelling units. They have hired NFP for the architectural work. There

are two new state laws (Act 47 and Act 181) that make it easier to build multiple dwelling units up to 24 units.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.