

TOWN OF FORESTBURGH PLANNING BOARD
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2026

After a public hearing, the meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Chairman Richard Robbins at the Town Hall in Forestburgh.

Members Present: Katherine Barnhart
Susan Hawvermale
Arthur Leaney-Levenson
Richard Robbins - Chairman

Absent: Anthony Cardoso
Alan Devlin

Town Attorney: Javid Afzali

Recording Secretary: Billie Jean McGinnis

Chairman Robbins established that we have a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed.

Motion made by S. Hawvermale to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by K. Barnhart.

Vote: All in favor.

Public Comment on Applications on the Agenda

There were no comments.

Eagle Creek Renewable Energy

Rebecca Vicaretti-Serrano provided an update on behalf of the applicant. The DEC is awaiting final signature on the permit. They met the eagle and rattlesnake restrictions. They are currently monitoring behaviors of the eaglets. They hope to have the penstock replaced by the end of the year.

Chairman Robbins asked to replenish their escrow.

This matter has been tabled.

Barnes

Tracy West Barnes presented. She is asking to separate a lot on her property for her son to build a new home. They only have 4 acres from their forestry program to give. They need to

keep a certain amount of acres to remain in the forestry program. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Robbins explained that the Board cannot approve a variance to build on less than 5 acres. The ZBA could provide that variance. Another option is to reconfigure the property to make up the acreage. With a completed application, the Board may be able to approve that without a variance. It's the applicant's decision. Chairman Robbins referred to the Town Code that lists the requirements. He also advised that T. Gottlieb's comments will need to be addressed. There are also endangered species on the property that will be part of the SEQRA process. Chairman Robbins reviewed all the various requirements of a completed application. Presently the application is incomplete.

Moore

Mr. Moore wants to combine his two lots. He doesn't need permission from the Planning Board to do that. Our Zoning Code requires the Planning Board to get involved with the splitting of lots such as subdivisions. But if an owner wants to merge two lots, it's a ministerial process to do so but the Tax Assessor and Building Department. The Assessor provided the new County form requiring the Planning Board to sign off on. Before signing off, Chairman Robbins wanted to be sure he could sign off and also notify the Board of this a ministerial action.

S. Hawvermale asked if this will set a precedent. No one has ever come to the Planning Board for this before as it was not required. This has nothing to do with the Planning Board. J. Afzali provided options as the Board may sign off on each one or by resolution, the Chairman may sign off on any lot combination notice without having to wait for the next meeting.

Motion made by S. Hawvermale to have the Chairman sign off on lot combination forms.

Seconded by K. Barnhart.

Vote: All in favor.

Other Business

S. Hawvermale brought up a point that people should contact the Planning Board to avoid misinformation from other departments in the Town.

Adjournment

Motion made by S. Hawvermale to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm. Seconded by A. Leaney-Levenson.

Vote: All in favor.