

**DRAFT**  
**TOWN OF BENTON PLANNING MEETING**  
**November 25, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Crystal Tomion; Rich Meyer; Steve Hullings; Matthew Perry; Jeff Eckert; Jeremiah Tomion - Alt.

**ABSENT:** Steve Hullings - Excused

Also Present: Glen Quackenbush, Town Councilman; Tom Davies, Town Councilman; Anthony Stauffer; Kelly Sullivan; Tom Fulkrod, Code Enforcement Officer; and Michael Peacock, Recording Secretary.

Crystal Tomion called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Meyer made a motion to approve the previous month's minutes as written, Perry seconded the motion. All in Favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

There is no agenda for this month.

Rich Meyer asked if the board and Tom Fulkrod could look into certain business applications that gave stipulations on how many pieces of equipment could be placed in front of the business. Tom Fulkrod says he has spoken with some businesses he knows that are in violation and nothing has been done. The board asked if Fulkrod could look further into this, Tom Fulkrod has said he would look into Martins Hardware, Twin Pines, and Apex Machinery to start, and if he finds that they are in violation he will send letters.

Kelly Sullivan from LaBella was in attendance to answer more of the board's questions in regards to the solar project at the Stewarts.

Kelly Sullivan had notified the board that the SEQR notices have gone out, and that they are looking into landscaping, possibly Cornell Cooperative Extension to ask what type of species should be used. Kelly had notified the board that NYSHPO came back with no impact to the property. The Board and Kelly were hoping to have a December Host Community Agreement.

Kelly Sullivan stated that she and the engineering company have listened to the board and understand that the town has a very high importance with agriculture. The engineering company is looking into some possibilities of agrivoltaics, maybe sheep grazing, an apiary on site, or even strawberries. Sullivan is going to look into getting some examples of other projects that are using agrivoltaics and bring them in front of the board. Labella will also do a glare study on this project.

Crystal Tomion asked who purchases the screening, and Kelly responded with the developer. Labella, the engineering company will submit a landscaping plan.

The Town's main concern is that this project may not be cohesive with the comprehensive plan, and that this property is not a main residence for the homeowners. Tom Fulkrod shared what John Kreise spoke about in last month's meeting. John spoke about what agriculture means to this area, and his concern of the soil being some of the best in the country, and he is concerned it will be disrupted and never return to its current state.

Crystal Tomion did mention her meeting with NYSEG and the stress they placed on this area needing power. Tom Fulkrod also mentioned the towns tax revenue from its current solar projects.

**CLOSING:**

The Board will meet again in January of 2026.

Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jeremiah Tomion seconded the motion. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Peacock  
Recording Secretary