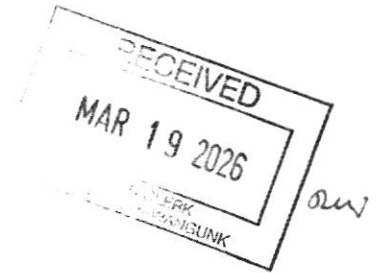


Town of Shawangunk
Zoning Board of Appeals
February 18, 2026



Minutes of a Public Hearing held by the Town of Shawangunk Zoning Board of Appeals on February 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 14 Central Avenue, Walkkill, New York, County of Ulster for the following:

Present Were: Mr. Dennis Arluck, Chairman, Mrs. Susan Wiand, Mr. Christopher Budney Ms. Janice Stryker, Zoning Board Secretary, and members of the public.

Absent: Mrs. Sandy Damon and Richard Wallner as Members, Mr. Richard Hoyt, Town Attorney.

Ms. Stryker read the meeting's agenda.

Approval of Minutes: November 19th, 2025, have been deferred to the March 18, 2026, agenda - no quorum.

HCA Fund(s) – Tree Planting (USLE)

This is an informational hearing. Tonight we will discuss tree planting; we expect to receive Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars from USLE. The town would like to use some of the money for tree planting. The board would like to hear where some trees people feel should be planted; what type of trees are planted and grow in those areas. These trees can be planted anywhere on town property, in the Hamlet, Walker Valley, and a park.

Mr. David Haldeman, Shawangunk Environmental Council member: The EMC has been involved with the town for many years in regard to planting trees; the parks, the Town Hall and even along the streets of the Hamlet. The last several years the Boy Scouts and I have been keeping an inventory of the trees that have been planted in the town This helps to know where trees are needed the heights, width and types of trees needed in the town. There are certainly places in the hamlet where the old maples were planted many years ago are starting to come down.

Mr. Richard Barnhart, Planning Board member: I would recommend anywhere there is forest land cleared for project to be replanted using the formula the Audubon Society of Mid Hudson Valley recommends when time to decommission the solar array.

Mr. Dave Tompkins: EMC Member: I also feel we should manage the funds for perpetuity. A pollinator habitat would benefit butterflies may be something to consider and is a conservation effort. The EMC does have a few ideas and would like to help.

Clear Cut Limits in Solar Zoning

The town currently has a ten-acre limit for cutting. The Zoning Board ran into an issue with USLE Lighting because our Zoning is not clear. Twenty acres is the limit for a solar array, with ten acres being the limit to cut in that solar array.

I would like to see our zoning do is ten-acre maximum for every type of plant; weed plant to large trees is ten-acres.

Mr. Budney: If the zoning language is going to be changed from clear cutting/cutting instead it should say clearing of all vegetation. That would incorporate everything from a blade of grass to every type of tree.

Mr. Barnhart: The hard and fast ten acres is the way to go. I would also recommend any where it is forest land will also need to insist in the law there is a reforestation at the formula of the National Auto Bonds Society of Mid-Hudson Valley recommends at decommissioning of the solar array.

Ban on Solar Battery Farms:

Discussed - Possibilities

- Approved by NYS Fire Code
- Reference Technology
- Fully adverted to the new technology
- Moratorium

Zoning Text Changes:

Future Discussions:

- 177-6 (I) (2) Small Business District: Add (S) to Apartment
- 177-6 (K)(2) Mixed Use Buildings : Add (S) to Apartment
- 177-27 (B) Regulate Campsites
- 177-35 (B)(12) Site Plan Review
- 177-43 Environmental Considerations
- 177-52 (F) Temporary Uses – ZBA Authority
- 177-59 ZBA Public Hearing & Referral
- 177-84 Grandfathering Provisions
- Schedule 1 – Zoning District Bulk Requirements
- Amend Zoning map of Town of Shawangunk

- Ag Tourism

A motion was made by Ms. Wiand and seconded by Mr. Budney to adjourn this meeting.

Vote: Mr. Budney – Aye, Ms. Wiand – Aye Mr. Arluck – Aye

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Stryker

Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary