

Village of The Branch Planning Board Meeting
November 16th, 2022
Track #61

The Planning Board meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at Village Hall, 40 Route 111 Smithtown, NY at 7:30 p.m. on November 16th, 2022.

The following persons were present:

John Carro- Acting Chairman	Christine Cozine- Village Clerk
Valerie Lindeman- Member	Dan Falasco – Village Engineer not present
David Wetzel – Member- not present	
Michael Kelly – Member	
Glenn Haberfield – Member	

John Carro, acting Chairman due to Libby Smith illness, called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm

Chairman Carro made a **motion** to open the public meeting. Valerie Lindeman seconded the **motion**, all in favor and approved unanimously.

This hearing is just for Village Commons Shopping Center, not Branch Shopping Center.

Mr. Dean Apostoleris – Engineer Kimley Horne, representing applicant Acadia Realty – looking to install two level 2 EV Chargers in the parking lot of the Village Commons shopping center. There are three different levels of EV charging. Level 1 would be in your home, i.e., an outlet which would take 1-36 hours to charge an EV car. Level 2 would be at shopping center, i.e., 208 120-volt panel which would take 4-10 hours to charge an EV car. Level 3 would be at a highway, DC fast charge, i.e., 30 mins -2 hours to charge an EV car. Level 3 requires a lot more engineering and construction costs due to space and sizing and setbacks etc. We are proposing two level 2 EV charging stations on the Eastern portion of parking lot. There will be no open trenching it is all underground. There will be limited interruption to customers when setting this up. They will be located on existing landscaping islands and using current parking stalls located there. They will be striped and have signage (12x18 standard) to denote EV charging. IT sits on a 4x4 concrete slab with anchor bolts. Will protect the trees and will relocate shrubs. The reason for placement is unique to Volta’s business plan. Visibility is key to them as they use sponsored content to advertise on the screens which helps subsidize the cost.

Jeremy Hill _ Acadia Realty – Acadia does not currently monitor or police how long customers stay in their parking spots. No tenants of the shopping center have rights or consent to what happens in the parking lots.

Daniel Simon – Volta Charging – Volta has an app associated with their charging stations. They have a 2-hour limit, typical data shows 70 minutes gives you approximately 20 miles. Level 2 is not typical of a person charging for a long time. Construction costs are the reason for the placement of the EV chargers. Our stations can service all vehicles, not just Tesla.

Glenn Haberfield – we approved years ago, are you same Co? Glenn also mentioned that Volta is taking up valuable parking spots and is not thrilled about that taking 2 spots away from non-charging cars. Suggested putting charging stations in back like previous approval has Mr. Hill

answered no it is not the same company, the original company backed out and the agreement died. Not putting the charging station in the rear because that is not Volta's business model. I still think this is a nice thing for the customers. Chairman Carro doesn't like the idea of customers walking to the back of the stores to charge their cars, so he likes that it is located in the front of the stores. Mr. Hill mentioned the Tesla business model is totally different. They do things cheaper so that is why it is not located in the front of the store and further away from the stores. Volta has installed over 3,000 level 2 chargers.

Mike Kelly suggested moving the charging stations to the middle of the shopping center in an island over there. Mr. Hill mentioned that is where they store all their snow when its snow season so that wouldn't work. Mike also asked which way does the screen face? Mr. Hill said they face outward so people can see when they are walking into the store. This prompted Glenn Haberfield to ask about digital signage. Is that even allowed? Mr. Simon answered the screen is static image, not moving, it rotates every 8 seconds, which is state law, and there is no controversial advertising allowed. No drugs, alcohol, political. You can even control content. Volta does local and national business with advertisers.

Chairman Carro asked how long the term of the lease is for the chargers? Mr. Hill answered it is 10-year lease with 5-year option.

Valerie Lindeman asked about long term expansion. Mr. Simon said projecting over time feels like Smithtown will be profitable and would like to expand. This a great location as many people around here uses EV cars. Construction takes 3 weeks at most and level 3 would be at least another year out.

Mr. Hill said he was talking with 4 other EV charging station companies, and this is the only one talking to us in Smithtown. Feels this business model is more stable than others. Volta has been in business over 12 years.

Glenn Haberfield doesn't feel the net positive is high enough to warrant taking primo spots to use for EV charging.

Mike Kelly made a **motion** to adjourn the public meeting. Valerie Lindeman seconded the **motion**, all in favor and approved unanimously.

Chairman Carro likes it and thinks it will be good for the shopping center.

Glenn Haberfield does not like this in the Village of The Branch and wants to protect the aesthetics of the Village. Thinks this is better off in the Town of Smithtown.

Mike Kelly thinks this is elegant enough not to be distracting, only wishes the spots could be together and not separate.

Valerie Lindeman wants to investigate the code for advertising and lighting. Likes the technology with forward thinking but is on the fence. Would like Chairman to ask the Board of Trustees at their next work session how they feel as to not jeopardize the integrity of the Village.

Glenn Haberfield made a **motion** to close the meeting at 8:32pm. Mike Kelly seconded the **motion**, all in favor and approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by
Christine Cozine – Village Clerk