

Village of The Branch Planning Board Meeting  
May 17th, 2023  
Track #69

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 May 17th, 2023.

The following persons were present:

John Carro- Acting Chairman  
Valerie Lindeman- Member  
Michael Kelly – Member  
Glenn Haberfield – Member

Christine Cozine- Village Clerk  
Dan Falasco – Village Engineer not present

John Carro, acting Chairman due to Libby Smith illness, called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Charge Smart LLC- Christian Spenziero – looking for preapproval before handing in an application because there is a lot of municipal paperwork and behind the scenes work that needs to be done and wants to make sure this is something we are interested in.

Mr. Spenziero said ChargeSmart is a turnkey electric charge provider. He brought in pictures to show what the machines will look like. Each machine has 2 hookups – 1 will get 120amps and if another vehicle joins then both get 60 amps. The users will need an apple or android app to use the machines. RFID Card, apple pay, or credit card can be used to pay. A full charge costs \$30, which takes approx. 30-60 minutes (compact car vs SUV/truck) ChargeSmart receives utility incentives, PSEGLI currently doing 20 machines on LI.

**Branch Shopping Center** – will not interfere with general traffic, will not take up prime parking. Proposing 5 units will provide stamped engineer plans, however, there are a. lot of steps.

Dan Falasco our Village Engineer asked John Carro to ask if they could go underground as opposed to putting up a new pole. Mr. Spenziero said that depends on PSEG, the diagram is proposed and not actual until they meet with PSEG. The Village would love it to be underground if possible (lateral boring).

**Plaza Shopping Center** – 2 spots would be used to hold the pad. Member Kelly asked why 5 charging stations, each station has 2 spots. Member Haberfield said it is our duty to enforce the code and aesthetic of the Village. He feels this is a “gas station” look and not what he wants to see in the village. Feels like it is taking 10 spots away from parking lot and thinks it should belong in less visible area behind the shopping center. Mr. Haberfield does not like the bright yellow stations, not esthetically pleasing and he also does not want EV Parking Only signs put up. Ms. Lindeman asked if the back parking lot was looked at all. ChargeSmart and Dylan D’Onofrio of Acadia felt it was a safety issue having it in the back of the building. Mr. Haberfield again stated he does not like the aesthetic of the charging stations.

Mr. Spenziero said the light could be removed from the station, giving an example of Poughkeepsie had lights were removed. The lights are fully customizable, can change colors and Chairman Carro mentioned he wants to follow the colors of Planning Board for that shopping center (red, white, green)

Mr. Kelly said he would prefer the charging stations be put in the center median in the parking lot and maybe do 4 spots 180 amps.

Ms. Lindeman asked a safety question; can they explode and Christian replied No. They go through extensive testing and that is why they are put on PSEG list.

Chairman Carro made a **motion** to give preliminary approval. Mike Kelly seconded the motion and approved.

John – yes

Mike – yes

Valerie – yes

Glenn - No

Ms. Lindeman mentioned she would like some shrubbery around the stations.

Chairman Carro mentioned that there is a new PB member, Maureen Fitzgerald.

Glenn Haberfield made a **motion** to accept the November 16, 2022, Planning Board Minutes.

Mike Kelly seconded the **motion**, all in favor and approved unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted by  
Christine Cozine – Village Clerk