
JOEL M. ZYLSTRA

1438 North Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, Florida 33480 ♦ (517) 896-9728 ♦ jzylstra@jmzdevelopment.com

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Due to a previously scheduled commitment, I regret that I am unable to attend this meeting in person or even virtually. I appreciate the opportunity to share some thoughts about my interest and experience relevant to Planning and Zoning Commission.

For most of my professional career I have been an entrepreneurial business executive which has provided me with nearly 40 years of engineering, development, and leadership experience. As a professional engineer I was taught the essential skills necessary to solve technical problems. As a business leader I developed the necessary skills and have the experience to debate, negotiate, build relationships, and find compromise when necessary. As a developer of renewable energy projects, it was necessary for me to request amendments, variances, and zoning approvals from multiple municipalities and jurisdictions across the country. This experience along with my recent education as a law school student would lend itself well to the on-going work that the commission tends to on a regular basis.

On August 6, I was able to virtually attend the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held at Town Hall. This meeting was a very good opportunity to better understand the objectives and inner workings of the commission while the review of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan that was on the docket served as an effective update on the challenges that lie ahead. I was encouraged by the commissions desire to protect the quality of life for our townspeople, and the discussion regarding “town residents” vs “town persons” reminded me of the importance of finding a sustainable balance that considers all impacts from a broader perspective. My experience in negotiations and conflict resolution would be helpful in finding this delicate balance.

Currently I serve on the Shore Protection Board for the Town. This opportunity has provided me with a better understanding of how our town government works and the interactions that are necessary between the various boards, commissions, and committees. I greatly enjoy this work and believe that my education and experience have made a positive impact. It is my intent and desire, however, to serve our town in a capacity that can better utilize my experience in the planning and zoning field while allowing me to contribute more of my time and talents to our community.

Thank you for considering me for this very important post and I stand ready to fulfill my obligations on the commission if appointed.

Respectfully submitted.

Joel M Zylstra