

**VILLAGE OF SOUTH BLOOMING  
GROVE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
Monday  
September 13, 2021  
8:04 P.M.**

➤ **Call to order**

- Mayor Kalaj called to order the Village Public Hearing regarding Special Permit – **House of Worship – 17 Sleepy Hollow, 29 & 31 Mountain Road** at 8:28 p.m. on September 13, 2021 via Zoom Webinar No. 881 0557 6852 for the South Blooming Grove located at 819 State Route 208, within the Village of South Blooming Grove, and having a mailing address of Monroe, New York.

➤ **Roll call**

The following persons were present:

- George Kalaj- Mayor
- Abraham Weiss – Deputy Mayor
- Yitzchok Feldman – Trustee
- Asher Guttman – Trustee
- Zalmon Rosner – Trustee
- Scott B. Ugell, Esq. – Village Attorney
- Kerry Dougherty – Village Clerk
- Joel Stern - Confidential Assistant to Mayor
- Isaac Ekstein – Legislative Aide to Mayor

➤ **Public Comment**

- **Susan Blakney** – This property on Sleepy Hollow, has this come to the board before this? She heard about it through the Times Herald Record and went back and never saw it going to planning board or being discussed. She was surprised that it was going for a public hearing.
- **Isaac Ekstein** – replied that this property was before the planning board approximately 9 years ago. The previous owner almost sold the property with the approved plans. Right now it is only on the board agenda for approval of a change of use. It is not about construction etc, that is already been approved 9 years ago, they just needed a building permit from the building inspector.
- **Susan Blakney** – stated that you would think that the village board would want to review the 9 year old plans before they approve it rather than just approve it. Many of you were probably not even in the village at that time. How could you just go ahead and approve this? What was this address approved for?
- **Issac Ekstein** – according to his notes it was approved for a single family with 9 bedrooms. At this time they are in front of the board requesting a change of use for a house of worship for religious use.
- **Simon Gelb** – All of these applications are only for a special use permit, none of these three applications this evening are for any type of development. The comments related to development are not applicable for this public hearing. Second, this application was filed 6 months ago with the village, it was in front of the village board and then the village board deferred the application to the planning board and it was in front of the planning board as well. Then the planning board referred the applications to the building inspector, who then visited all three properties and did a full inspection to make sure that this change of use was in compliance with Codes and Rules. On behalf of the three applicants, there was an ample amount of time for all the boards in accordance with 235-94 of the Village Code and he is thanking the board for having these, three applications tonight for a public hearing. Thank you.

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- **Kristie Johnson** – she was just able to FOIL those address today and asked that the board hold off on voting on this until she has reviewed it. She cannot comment on something she has no information on. Her comment stands for all public hearings addressed this evening.
- **Bonnie Rum** – Since Mr. Ekstein said that there are 9 bedrooms to this location and you are speaking of a change of use to a house of worship, are they talking about using these 9 bedrooms as a dormitory, that would be more of a school than a house of worship.
- **Issac Ekstein** replied that the building inspector made sure it is in accordance with the law.

➤ **Adjournment**

- Motion to close the public hearing at 8:39 p.m. by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Rosner. 5 Ayes, *Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Feldman, Trustee Guttman, and Trustee Rosner.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Kerry Dougherty, Village Clerk