Fraternities subject of public hearing

The Village of Alfred Planning Board will hold a public hearing at 7:15 p.m. tonight (Thursday, Nov. 2) to receive public comments on the issuance of Special Use Permits for three off-campus fraternities. The hearing will be conducted in the theater of Alfred Village Hall.

Gamma Theta Gamma, Kappa Sigma Epsilon and Delta Psi Omega are subject to the permit, which must be renewed annually. A public hearing is required for special use permits of all types under the Village’s Zoning Law.

The Village Board of Trustees wrote the requirement for a new special use permit into law earlier this year at the recommendation of the Planning Board. A revised definition of fraternities, sororities and related associations was also adopted, while new associations will be limited to the education zoning district. The Village’s three off-campus fraternities are “grandfathered” in business and residential zones.

The new regulations were written in response to public concern that fraternities remain responsible neighborhood organizations that abide by Village laws and building and zoning codes.

The hearing will be followed by the regular November meeting of the Planning Board, at which the topic of the fraternity permits will be discussed.

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