

Public Hearing February 26, 2019

Selectmen in attendance: Lynn Sweet, Chairman and Scott Young

Also in attendance: Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse, 911 Coordinator Judith Dupré, Barrington Selectman Dan Ayer, Tyler Crabtree, Road Agent Greg Messenger, Wendy Andersen

Selectman Sweet opened the Public Hearing at 6:03PM, stating that the notice of the Public Hearing had been posted in the Strafford Community Calendar, Town Office, and the Strafford Post Office and was sent to property owners abutting Dillon Drive by certified mail.

The purpose of the hearing was to discuss the renaming and numbering of the newly built out section of Dillon Drive East. There is no thruway connection of Dillon Drive East and the newly developed section.

Upon the closing of the public hearing, the Town will send all property owners on that street notification letters stating their new address and the date that the new address will be recognized as their official address.

The Selectmen had chosen the name of the road to be Thorne Way. They discussed the reasoning for changing the name of Dillon Drive. It is not accessible from Dillon Drive East and may cause delay in emergency response with that confusion. The name Thorne Way was chosen because of the land's former developer, Gerald Thorne, a long standing resident of the Town.

Discussion was opened up to Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse and to Road Agent Greg Messenger, and then to members of the public present. Chief Whitehouse addressed the difficulty for emergency responders to locate properties on Dillon Drive as it is not a through street. It was actually he who initiated the name change.

The Town chose the name, Thorne Way, based on the historical ownership of the land, but neither of the two residents who live on the road are fond of the name. Mr. Crabtree acknowledged the thinking behind the Selectmen's selection of a name, and is personally interested in its history. He stated that the 2 residents would like some "ownership" by choosing a name they prefer. He would be fine with a fire road designation. All in attendances felt certain that 911 would not appreciate another Fire Road.

Ms. Dupré spoke to the historical nature of the Thorne family who still own land in the area.

A decision will be made at a future Selectmen's meeting when all Board members are present.

The Public Hearing concluded at 6:09PM.