

Minutes

Planning Board Meeting

April 3, 2014

Members of the Planning Board in attendance were Charles Moreno, Chairman, Paul Eaton, and Donald Coker. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and announced the members present. The closing date for applications to appear on the agenda for the May 1, 2014 regular meeting is 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, 2014. The Chairman advised that the Board has a policy setting time limits for meetings and that the Board will not consider any new business after 10:30 PM. Board members then agreed to postpone consideration of the minutes to the end of the meeting.

There was still no news regarding the application of JANET CHASSE PREVATT AND TERRY PREVATT for 3-lot, revised to 2-lot, subdivision of their property located at 79 Ridge Farm Road (Tax Map 15, Lot 22). New notifications will be sent if new information is received from the applicant. There was also no new information on the application for design review for R. STEPHEN LEIGHTON, Mohawk Trail Way and Cross Road (Tax Map 15, Lot 15).

The first order of new business was the application of Public Service of New Hampshire for a public hearing in accordance with NH RSA 231: 158 and the Strafford Scenic Roads Ordinance. The Chairman then opened the public hearing. Notice was posted on March 21, 2014 and published twice in Foster's Daily Democrat and also in the Suncook Valley Sun as a courtesy to the neighborhood. PSNH is requesting permission to trim and/or remove trees and brush for routine maintenance along power distribution lines located along Evans Mountain Road, Parsons Hill Road, and Willey Pond Road, designated Scenic Roads in the Town of Strafford. Work is scheduled to begin following the hearing and will be completed before the end of the year. Joel Cook of Asplundh was present representing PSNH. Mr. Cook presented the Board with a list of identified "hazard trees" that they hope to cut. He advised the Board that they are looking for cavities, defects, or damage to the trees. They still do not have a final list because of snow. They are planning a maintenance trim and hope to keep to regular maintenance specifications, trimming 8 feet to the side, 15 feet above, and 10 feet below the wires. They are also planning to do a ground cut of brush, but they don't think they will need to do much in this area. Mr. Cook noted that they do not cut without the permission of the landowner. Paul Eaton asked when they had done the last maintenance trim and Mr. Cook said that he believed that it was 4 years ago. He advised that PSNH trims on a 4 year rotation on most circuits. The trees marked for removal have been flagged with blue and white tape. Mr. Cook noted that the NH PUC now allows mail-out cards, and the regulations have changed so that now if the landowners do not send back the cards, PSNH has implied consent for the cut.

Charles Moreno agreed that PSNH has to maintain the lines, but advised that from past experience, it will be helpful for the Board to have a full list of what will get cut and having all the trees flagged. He suggested a complete list of everything to be cut for trees 4 inches and up. Mr. Cook suggested that they could send the list and then would not cut a tree that was not on the list without contacting the Board. Paul Eaton said that he would prefer to have all the trees that they would like to cut flagged and then the Board can check on the trees. There was some discussion of how soon they would like to do the work. Mr. Cook said that they have already cut some trees in Camp Foss, on private property, and hope to begin on the roads soon. He said that he would talk with the permissions notification people. Paul Eaton advised that realistically the Board cannot approve the list until next month, especially if all the trees have yet to be identified. Donald Coker asked if the hearing notices had been listed in the newspaper and notice requirements were met; advertising was explained. Paul Eaton again noted that the Board needed to do their due diligence and look at the trees proposed for trimming. Charles Moreno said that if the trees are flagged and Board members can cross-reference with the list, it would be best. Mr. Cook noted that Bea Hebert, the arborist for PSNH is new to the area and is still learning the towns. He will ask that they send a revised list by email and will add the diameter of the tree to the list. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting, on May first.

Board members then noted that they will need to fill a vacancy on the Board due to Lynn Sweet's election to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Sweet plans to continue with the Board as the ex-officio member. Board members are hoping to recruit someone with civil engineering experience. Jim Kerivan has said that he would be willing to

help review plans if asked, but is not interested in rejoining the Board. Other future tasks were noted, including updating the Master Plan, and holding Board elections to name a new Secretary. Board members then worked on drafting a lot line adjustment application checklist.

Board members then returned to the minutes. After review, Paul Eaton then made a motion to accept and approve the minutes for the March meeting. Donald Coker seconded the motion, there was no further discussion, and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative. There being no other business before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.