

Minutes

Planning Board Meeting

April 7, 2011

Members of the Planning Board in attendance were Charles Moreno, Chairman, James Graham, Lynn Sweet, Mark Whitcher, and Terry Hyland, Alternate member.

The Chairman called the public meeting to order at 7:30 PM and announced the members present. The closing date for applications to appear on the agenda for the May regular meeting is 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 19, 2011. The Chairman reminded the audience 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.

There were no items of continuing business. The first item 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. Public notice for this hearing was posted and published in Foster's Democrat on March 29th and March 30th, 2011, as required. PSNH is requesting permission to trim and/or remove trees and brush for routine maintenance along power distribution lines located along Northwood Road and Jo Al Co Road, designated Scenic Roads in the Town of Strafford. Work is scheduled to begin following this hearing and will take the rest of the year to complete. David Crane, Arborist for PSNH was present, accompanied by Bob Berner, who will soon be taking over Mr. Crane's responsibilities in this district, as Mr. Crane moves to the western part of the state. Mr. Crane noted that this is another part of the annual maintenance trimming conducted by PSNH on a four-year cycle. Most of Strafford was done during the summer of 2010, but the Northwood end of the town will be included in this summer's work schedule. The trimming specifications are the same as they were last year, and the same crew is doing the trimming in Strafford. He agreed that PSNH is cutting more deeply than they did before the ice storms of a few years ago. Larger trees they will trim on a case by case basis. He noted that they have flagged one small birch on Northwood Road, and there is a large maple on Jo Al Co Road by the Liskow property that the owners feel should be removed. After taking a closer look at the tree this afternoon, Mr. Crane says that he agrees.

There were no questions from the Board. The Chairman then called on the audience to ask if there were any questions. Carolyn Page noted that David Crane has done a good job with the trimming project. Mr. Crane noted that crews working on Scenic Roads are provided with a list of trees and very specific instructions. Mrs. Page said that she feels that PSNH does a good job, but is concerned that the road crews are not as careful. It was agreed that the local road agent is careful on the designated roads. There being no more comments, the Chairman then closed the public hearing. Jim Graham then made a motion, seconded by Lynn Sweet, to send a letter allow PSNH to complete the trimming work as designated in their application letter, with the addition of one rock maple located on Jo Al Co Road by the Liskow property. There was no further discussion, and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

The Board then turned to another item of old business, the proposed changes to the Strafford Subdivision Regulations reviewed at the Public Hearing on the Zoning Proposals held on January 25, 2011. Amendments to the Subdivision Regulations can be made by vote of the Board following a public hearing. Lynn Sweet noted that now that the Conservation Development Ordinance amendments have been passed by the voters, the Board should take up the proposed added language to Article 2.6.5 of the Subdivision Regulations that is meant to work together with the new Conservation Development language. Board members agreed. Jim Graham then made a motion, seconded by Lynn Sweet, to add language to Article 2.6.5, Section D, of the Subdivision Regulations, to allow an exception to the requirement that there be no more than 10 lots on a dead-end road for Conservation Development projects. There was no further discussion, and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

The Board agreed that they would schedule a work session once we have heard more from Normandeau on the Stormwater Regulations project. There being no further business before the Board, it was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn at 8:30 pm.