

Minutes of the Planning Board

November 9, 2020

6:04 PM – Call to Order

Present: Bonnie, Mike, Hanna, Margaret

Absent: Pat, Scott, Robert

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mike made a motion to accept minutes from October meeting as written, Bonnie seconded. Approved unanimously.

No Selectmen's report – Scott not present.

Master Plan Revisions, Adoption Process, and Time Line- Report from Subcommittee
Request to continue master plan to next meeting.

Report on findings from Earth Excavation Sites Visits on October 26, 2020 and November 2, 2020

Nothing noteworthy with east side Caulder, Potato Hill, or Conn. We found that the West Side Caulder & Devine sites were noncompliant in size and location of the site. Additionally, the west side Caulder site permit was expired. We sent notifications by regular mail to this effect to both Caulder and Devine and have had no response yet.

Status of Devine Earth Excavation Site

Status of Caulder West Side Route 3 Earth Excavation Site

Now decision needs to be made what next steps should be taken. Do we need to send a certified mail or send it to the Selectmen? As message has already been sent in official Town of Woodstock envelope & noted as from the Planning Board, all Board members present agreed that the next step is to send this to the Selectmen for enforcement.

Bonds due in December for Potato Hill and R & E Leasing Earth Excavation Sites

Potato Hill bond will be submitted by Dec 1st. R&E Leasing typically sends in bond promptly but we will send a reminder letter as a courtesy.

Mike suggested that we may want to review the Excavation Regulation and treat this like a major subdivision where we do a peer review, hiring a consultant with subject matter expertise to look at the application and make recommendations. And when we do the site visits as well, to have a consultant present to advise. For example, it is clear that the Devine excavation pit has been out of compliance for longer than this year and we did not recognize it sooner.

Putting in provisions to hire the help we need would be very useful, and these costs could be passed on to the applicants. This would be roughly a couple hundred dollars a year if the sites are in compliance. It may cost more if sites are out of compliance and more work is needed to resolve issues. Especially with new applications coming in, this is a good time to put new regulations into place.

Mike and Bonnie will form a subcommittee to work on this.

Secretary Recruitment

Bonnie spoke with Judy Welch about it and the secretary would be a Town employee, so would need to go through the process and be vetted through Criminal Background Checks, etc. We need to find a candidate, get a formal application and go through the process. We had a student visit a few meetings last year – Margaret suggested we approach her and ask whether she might be interested. Perhaps an internship could be arranged.

Other Business

No mail, no correspondence.

Public Participation

No public present

Resnick Circle

Bond is expiring. We need to check when the bond is due & send a letter to Mark. Have we heard when he is going to upgrade the road? We need to follow up on the status of his commitment to upgrade the road. Lots have been sold, though it is probably too late to do any paving this season.