

Planning Board Minutes
Wednesday, 18, December 2013
Mallett Hall
7:00 PM

Members present: Ron Hodsdon, Joan Mueller, Liza Nichols, John Bowdren, alternate Jerry Gould, planner Tony Dater

Members absent: Matt St Cyr

Guests: Heidi and Alan Curry

1. Call to Order: at 7:03 by the Chair

2. Secretary's Report: meeting minutes of Nov. 20 – on a motion by Joan, seconded by John, the minutes were so moved and accepted as presented.

Onsite minutes of Dec. 14 – on a motion by Hutch, seconded by John, the minutes were so moved and accepted with the correction of the date at the top of the page.

3. Old Business: Heidi and Alan Curry, Allen Rd.

Heidi reported that an issue had resulted from her meeting with someone from the DOT for an entrance permit. (see accompanying emails between Heidi and Tony Fontaine, 12/16 & 17/13) The upshot is that there is inadequate sight distance to the SW, towards the P.O., from the road entrance. The speed limit which is 35 mph coming from Pineland Center rises to 45 mph at about Chadsey Rd., even though the state has not posted the change with a sign. 45 mph requires a sight distance of 450'; the Currys have 273'. If the speed limit were 30 mph a sight distance of 250' would be required. Heidi said she pointed out to the DOT that the intersection of Allen and Elmwood Rds. then also does not have sufficient sight distance. The DOT said that was too bad. They also said that requiring that signs be posted at the time of events and having someone control traffic, thus making the intersection safe, wouldn't fly because they have no confidence the Currys would always remember to do so.

Discussion turned to the history of accidents and near accidents at the intersection. Alan and Heidi said they daily see drivers coming from the SW miss the turn onto Elmwood, stop and back up blind over the crest of the hill. Hutch said that Fire & Rescue have been called to accidents there many times, one just the week prior.

It was felt by all that the speed limit ought to be dropped no matter what. Apparently only town officials can request the state to change a speed limit. Heidi has asked head Selectmen Tim Giddenge and RC Shawn Bennett if they would draft a letter asking for a meeting with the DOT. Joan said that bringing up the accident record of the past five or so years would be a good idea. Hutch said that the Fire Chief would have record of accidents it has been called to, but that the county and state are sometimes called so that they should be asked about records as well. Freeport also might have records. Jerry said that the Selectmen should properly approach the DOT armed with appropriate paperwork - accident numbers, costs to the town and fire dept. etc. and put all possible solutions on the table - speed limit, 3-way stop, round about. He also remarked that the DOT approach is backwards; they should not look at the speed limit to justify the sight distance but that the sight distance should control the speed limit. Hutch said that when the town owned the road the speed limit was 25 mph at the intersection.

Alan said they have been told that the road back to their wood yard was once a town road that went through to New Gloucester. Abutting property owners have always maintained they have a right-of-

way. He asked if this would grandfather them in some way? Sherry Dietrich would be the one to answer that. Liza will check.
The Currys will pursue the speed limit issue and get back to the PB if they can resolve the problem.

4. New Business: None

5. Discussion: Tony has sent the Board drafts and updates surrounding a road ordinance. Liza will see that Sherry Dietrich and Jim Briggs get copies as well. Jerry asked about what covers environmental considerations around roads? Tony said that other town ordinances and state and federal regulations pretty much take care of that but that we should look over the drafts and see if there are areas in which we want to highlight environmental requirements. He suggested that Section 6, Standards, could have additional appendices. Hutch suggested that Section 5, Application, say that all state and federal regulations have to be followed. Tony will check with the RC about that and will also put something under Standards that references best management practices.
Joan asked about a road application. Tony will work one up.

6. Other: New Planning & Land Use Laws are out. We decide^d not to order a full compliment of the books but get 4 for the Board and one for the CEO if she needs one. 1/15/13

Hutch, Liza and John met with the CEO and Head Selectmen Tim Giddenge to look over the State's new Floodplain maps. It was hard to tell what has been changed and what is in error. John will hang the pieces (the town is on several sheets and in some are in a different scale) at Mallett Hall so townspeople can come in and look at their properties. After a public meeting is held (in January?) the town will have 90 days to request changes. Tim said he would have a flyer put in the Tri-Town Weekly alerting people.

The Selectmen have not yet decided on the Zoning and Base maps estimate Judy Colby-George gave us.

Joan suggested that at our January meeting we figure out our schedule for bringing updated Ordinances to the town for a vote. Ideally we ought to be able to bring the Zoning, Subdivision, Mobile Home Park Ords., Definitions and Table of Contents to the town in June.

We scheduled the following Tuesdays at 8:00 AM for Ordinance Review Workshops: January 21, February 11 and 25.

7. January 15 Agenda: Road Ordinance Review.

8. Motion to adjourn at 8:51 PM: unanimously moved and accepted.

Respectively submitted,

Liza Nichols

Liza Nichols, Secretary