

Town of Hill
Hill Planning Board
30 March 2009

In attendance: Robert Helmers, Tom Whitman, Bill Henry, Seymour Goldberg, Mike Brady, Bob Walsh

Public: Bruce and Ginny Garfield, Jason Marceau, Dave and Jan Maloof, Micheal Burke, George Robie, Mike Stanley, Dean Wheeler, Richard Edmunds

Tom Whitman opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Goldberg took Mrs. Robie's place on the board, as she was unable to attend.

After a brief delay, where members looked to see if they had any unapproved minutes, the board considered election of officers. Mr. Helmers said he would be chair again and asked Mr. Robie if Denise would mind being vice-chair. Mr. Robie did not think that Denise would object. A motion was made to appoint Mr. Helmers chair and Mrs. Robie vice chair, leaving the secretary position unfulfilled.

The audience was informed that the board would shortly open the public hearing for the circle 3 excavation permit, but that the board would likely recess the hearing as Mr. Seufert, representative of the applicant, were unable to attend. The excavation plans were set out for display for the residents who attended to look over while the chair went and made copies of draft permit conditions for distribution.

The public hearing for the excavation and site plan review permits was opened at 7:56 p.m. The chair noted that the application and plans and all fees had been received and made a motion to accept the application. The motion was seconded and passed.

The chair explained that he had been informed that the applicant's representative was unable to attend after he had placed the public notices. This was in part due to scheduling difficulties, conflict with town meeting and a misunderstanding as to available dates that Mr. Seufert could attend. He apologized for the inconvenience, but felt that all interested parties should be present for the public hearing. He was going to recommend that the board recess the hearing until the regular meeting on April 16, 2009 when all interested parties could attend.

The chair also explained that the applicants had obtained permission by the special exception granted by the ZBA to operate an excavation pit on the property. The purpose of the excavation permit and site plan review permits was to regulate the operation of excavation activities at the site.

A few residents began to address questions to Mr. Edmunds about road conditions, recent damage to Bootjack Road and bonding, but the chair asked that the public refrain from question not related to the recess date and to direct questions to the board. Concerns were made as to why the board was allowing trucks on Bootjack Road during the mud season. The chair stated that was matter for the Selectmen. Mr. Brady noted that the selectmen in consultation with the road agent had allowed trucks on Bootjack. Mr. Marceau and Mr. Maloof suggested moving the hearing date back until

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May. They believed that the later date would allow Mr. David, whom they felt could best state public concerns, a better opportunity to attend. Mr. Helmers asked Mr. Edmunds for his concerns. Mr. Edmunds noted that they would be working in the phase 2 area that is already permitted, but was concerned about excessive delays.

Mr. Helmers made a motion to recess the public hearing until the May regular meeting, but it was not seconded. Mr. Brady made a motion to recess the hearing until the regular planning board meeting on April 16, but it was not seconded. The chair asked for discussion. Board members were concerned that the permit process had already been ongoing for a long time. Board members were concerned that they needed to respond to the applicant in a timely manner. There was public comment interjected that the board should represent the town's interest, not the applicants, in this matter. It was noted that operations could continue in the already permitted areas until the May meeting date. Some felt that two weeks was sufficient time to prepare for the public hearing. A motion was made and seconded to recess the public hearing until April 16, 2009. The motion passed with one dissenting vote. The hearing will re-open on April 16, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Copies of the draft permit conditions and the addendum to the site plan review were distributed to the public.

As the crowd departed, several questions were directed at Mr. Edmunds about recent damage to Bootjack Road by trucks, but the discourse continued outside.

The chair outlined goals for the year. He would like to see the board address the workforce housing law, preservation of rural character as defined in the master plan and to reconsider home occupations. He felt that with the resolution of the Circle 3 gravel pit permits and decreased activity in the town due to the poor economy, that the board would have the opportunity to pursue these objectives and that the town zoning should be reconsidered.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Bob Helmers