

Haverhill Planning Board Minutes Dec. 17, 2013
Draft Subject to Review, Correction, and Approval at Following Meeting

Call to Order

Chairman Don Hammond called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Planning Board members present:

Don Hammond

Bill Daley

Tom Friel

Tara Krause

Board members Mike Bonnano was ill and excused. Mike Simpson was not present.

Also present was Planning Board Clerk Ed Ballam

There were no members of the public present.

2. Designation of Alternates

No alternates to designate

3. Agenda Approval

Bill D. made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Tom F. The vote was unanimous.

4. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Bill D. made a motion to approve the minutes of the Nov. 26, 2013, meeting, seconded by Tom F. Bill D. asked that a typo at the bottom of the first page be correct regarding the lot line adjustment for the Methodist Church. The corrected sentence should read . "The adjustment area is .46 acres, giving the church 1.28 acres and the [Aldriches] 18.89 acres." The vote for the minutes with a revision was affirmative.

5. Scheduled Public Appearances

None

6. Correspondence/Communications

Ed B. mentioned that he had received some correspondences from the Grafton County Registry of Deeds that spelled out holiday hours and provided information about identity theft.

7. Reports of Committees

None

8. Pending Business

Ed B. said he wanted to make sure the record reflected that the Planning Board was NOT having a hearing on the building code ordinance as originally planned at the November meeting. Ed B. said the town manager and the selectboard had asked the planning board hold off on the hearing the options were sorted. The explanation was the board was not ready for the ordinance.

Don H. said he did not make a meeting scheduled to discuss the fee schedule, but he was told nothing was settled regarding the fees or the ordinance. Don H. said he had told Rick Ladd, the selectboard's appointee to the fire committee, that he needed more than two days to prepare the board to organize a public hearing as he requested. Don H. said he was only given a couple of day's notice as well for a meeting that was held on Nov. 21 to continue discussion of the ordinance and the fees, which is why he was not at the meeting.

Tom F. offered a 'Reader's Digest' version of the situation. Reading from the minutes of the Dec. 2 meeting, Tom F. said Selectman Rick Ladd said the town would have to decide which version of the life safety code it wanted to adopt as it related to the building code ordinance. Tom F. said there's no consensus about how to proceed and what to present.

Don H. said life safety code were adopted in Haverhill in 1985 and the state has always been at least a couple of years behind with the latest NFPA codes.

Tom F. said the fire committee needs to get together and come up with something everyone can agree to, the selectboard, the fire chiefs and the precinct commissioners to present to the town. Tom F. added that, according to the selectboard's minutes, Wayne Fortier asked the Planning Board to "back off" for a year so the committee can do it's work.

Don H. said that was fine by him, especially since the board was asked to hold the hearing by the selectboard and where only proceeding with a request from the board.

Tom F. said nothing definitive came out of the selectboard regarding the building code ordinance.

Tara K. asked who asked whom to do what regarding the public hearing. She said she's confused about who is supposed to do what. She asked that if the selectboard or the town manager had asked the planning board to hold off with the building

code ordinance hearing, the planning board could have gone ahead itself and held it anyway.

Tom F. said that was correct and added that the Planning Board could actually write the ordinance if it decided to do so and hold public hearings.

Don H. said it's the Planning Board's role to conduct the public hearings for this kind of ordinance.

Tom F. said if the board held the hearing on a building code ordinance, he believe the room would be filled with people who will oppose it and it would be anti-productive. He suggested the fire committee needs to get together and decide what it wants to do first.

Tara K. said in a related land use issue, that Dale Lewis has another petition circulating related to sludge. She said the issue is going to come up again.

Ed B. asked Bill D. if he had spoken to Dale Lewis about the issue. He said he did not because he thought the board had decided not to pursue it because the opponents, Shirley Grille and Susie Tann, were not interested in working on the issue.

Ed B. said that Don H. had talked to Brian Smith about the issue of sludge.

Don H. said that Bob Stoddard might be interested in using it as well. Don H. asked how Tara K. knew about the petition and she her husband signed it and she had been talking about it with others in the community, including John Boudreau who was very interested in the topic

Don H. said it would have to come back to Planning Board for a hearing.

Tom F. asked to "back track" for a moment and he made a motion requesting the Planning Board withdraw any further consideration about the life safety building code ordinance. Tara K. seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Don H. said, regarding the sludge ordinance petition, that the planning board will have to wait to see what happens and where the petition goes. Ed B. said if the petition is completed, turned and verified, it will have to come before the planning board anyway because it will be up to the Planning Board to hold the hearing

because it involves land use. He said it will get turned into the selectboard's office, get verified and then passed to the planning board.

Don H. said the board will deal with it when it sees it.

In other pending business, Ed B. said he has not made any progress on the gravel pit renewal process.

9. Other New Business

None

10. Public Appearances (Not Previously Scheduled)

None

11. Comments of the Clerk

Ed B. said he would wait for word about the sludge ordinance as well as any future directive regarding the building code ordinance. Don H. said he was asked directly by Rick Ladd to bring it to the planning board. Don H. said it wasn't his idea to pursue the ordinance. Don H. said that Rick Ladd said the planning board can hold the public hearing on the ordinance and he asked him to "take care of it." Don H. said he replied he would bring it up to the planning board if that's what he wanted. Don H. said so that's what he did, as requested.

12. Comments of the Planning Board

Bill D. asked if the board still wanted him to check with Robin Roystan about his gravel pit in connection with the inspection and renewal process. He said he would talk to him soon. Don H. said he understand that Roystan wants to sell it and is looking for buyers. Don H. said he understands that Kevin Horne would like to buy it, but doesn't want to make the investment right now.

13. Other

None

14. Adjournment/Next Regular Meeting

The meeting was adjourned 7:30 p.m. on a motion made by Tom F., seconded by Bill D. The next meeting will be held Jan. 28.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ed Ballam,
Planning Board Clerk