

DRAFT
Town of Fitzwilliam
Planning Board Meeting
August 2, 2016

Members Present: Terry Silverman, Robin Blais, Paul Haynes, Tom Parker, Suzanne Gray, Matt Buonomano, and Nancy Carney, Selectman's Representative.

Others Present: Frank Bequaert, Transportation Advisory Commission, Dorothy Zug, Conservation Commission.

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

7:00 PM Appointment. Frank Bequaert, Fitzwilliam representative to the SWRPC Transportation Advisory Commission, to discuss traffic issues.

Mr. Bequaert distributed information regarding an upcoming meeting with NHDOT to discuss safety issues regarding the intersection of Routes 12 and 119. They have proposed safety islands on Route 12, which are curbed traffic islands meant to deflect vehicles approaching the intersection. They will also discuss moving the 35 mph speed zone to the north, changing the blinker at the intersection to a traffic light, and modification of tuning signage at Mr. Mike's Store and Gas Station. Silverman said he had a real problem with a traffic light since it will force truck traffic to slow to a stop, which impacts vehicle traffic.

Mr. Bequaert said he would like input from the Board that he can convey to NHDOT so they can be prepared to discuss concerns and alternative suggestions.

As Fitzwilliam's representative to the SWRPC Transportation Advisory Committee, Mr. Bequaert said any proposals must be in line with NHDOT's rules and regulations, and funding has to be available. He said that federal dollars are now earmarked for safety projects. Any proposed project must demonstrate support of the town.

Buonomano asked if there was any discussion about pedestrian or biker traffic. Carney said NHDOT will not put in crosswalks unless they connect to sidewalks.

Mr. Bequaert said the only money available now is for safety and maintenance projects. Every project on the ten year plan is maintenance with two exceptions, the bridge to Brattleboro and the bridge in Jaffrey.

Blais asked about rumble strips. Mr. Bequaert said they are not in consideration because they are too noisy and residential neighborhoods do not like them. However, painting stripes on the streets is an option.

There was some discussion about the number of accidents at the intersection. Carney said most have been to the south of the intersection

7:30 PM Appointment. Dorothy Zug to discuss a Complete Streets policy.

Ms. Zug distributed information about complete streets, which accommodate vehicles, pedestrians and bikers. She said our roads were built for trucks and cars and not for pedestrian traffic. However, if a street is to be rebuilt, the town could adopt a policy to include widening the street to accommodate pedestrians and bikers. She added that complete streets benefit the community, economically and health improvement.

Silverman said the town has many 18th century homes that were built very close to the roads making it difficult

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to widen roads. Gray said complete streets might not be viable in many parts of town, and it doesn't have to be done along all roads. It was suggested that a group be convened to work on this project.

8:00 PM Preliminary consultation. Rod Pierce plans to build a 32'x48' storage building for equipment related to his water treatment business. Currently equipment is stored in a trailer box on site. He does not plan to have a store front and doesn't need to advertise. His van has a painted sign on the side and it is parked on site. In the future he hopes to build a home on the site. Prior to approving a construction permit for the storage structure, the Selectmen asked him to present his plan to the Planning Board.

Silverman reviewed 127-12, Industrial Uses, noting that 127-12 A. allows a "facility for the enclosed storage of goods and materials," in the General Industrial District. He further noted that the Sign Ordinance 127-32, Signs Which Do Not Require a Permit, #8 allows "Signs located on rolling stock of licensed common carriers or registered motor vehicles fit for highway use and not used to defeat the spirit of this ordinance."

He also said that if Mr. Pierce wants to build a home in the General Industrial District, he will need a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment, since single family residential use in that district is not an allowed use.

Carney noted that once the construction permit is approved and construction is completed, the occupancy permit will trigger a safety inspection of the structure.

Minutes. The Board reviewed minutes of the 07/19/16 meeting. Gray moved, Haynes seconded and the Board approved them as written.

Removal Bond. Blue Sky Towers, LLC submitted a letter describing the cost estimate to remove the proposed cellular tower and fenced compound should it become necessary in the future. The estimate was submitted to the Board for review prior to finalizing and posting the removal bond required by the Town. Silverman asked that the estimate be forecast for the cost of removal in 10-20 years.

Wireless Communications Ordinance. Silverman noted that Fitzwilliam's wireless communications ordinance may need to be updated to reflect current and future use of cell phones.

Appointment. Silverman moved, Parker seconded and the Board approved appointment of Carlotta Pini as an alternate Board member. Her term will become effective when Mac Landy resigns in anticipation of relocating to Illinois. Pini was an elected Planning Board member for 15 years, and has agreed to be an alternate. The Board expressed their thanks and gratitude to Mac Landy for his 28 years of service as a Board member.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.