

DRAFT
Town of Fitzwilliam
Planning Board Meeting
May 5, 2015

Members Present: Terry Silverman, Robin Blais, Suzanne Gray, Tom Parker, Carlotta Pini and Nancy Carney, Selectman's representative.

Others present: Dana Pinney, Robert Ford

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

7:00 PM Preliminary consultation. August Waters to discuss opening a commercial recreational paint ball business on property located at 69 Turner Road, Map 10, Lot 21-4, Rural District.

Mr. Walters presented his plan to open a 2-3 acre paint ball field. He would be leasing the field and lives on the property as a renter. He said the boundaries will be carefully marked to insure that participants do not stray onto surrounding properties. Initially players would bring their own equipment and he expects to provide equipment later on.

Silverman noted that under Fitzwilliam ordinance 127-13C, this is a prohibited use in town, adding that Mr. Waters will need a variance. He said there is a high hurdle for obtaining a variance and suggested Mr. Waters familiarize himself with the process. Silverman said that if a variance is granted, the Planning Board would require a site plan review of the commercial operation. Gray said the Board then would require a lot of information to determine and mitigate impact on the neighborhood. Parker said he would be most concerned about the safety of people in the neighborhood, and people hiking in the Town Forest. He asked the range for a paint ball and it is estimated at 250 – 300 feet. Mr. Waters said he would address the safety issues.

Minutes. The Board reviewed the April 7, 2015 meeting minutes. Blais moved, Gray seconded and the Board approved the minutes as written.

Vendor Permit. The Board considered and approved the vendor permit application for John Jeffrey to re-open his farm produce stand on the corner of Jaffrey Road and Route 12N. Open hours will be from 10 AM to 6 PM.

7:15 PM Preliminary consultation continues. Eversource to present visual simulations and planting plans, discuss the progress of the sound issue, etc.

Lisa Kavarnos introduced the Eversource team, noting that Eversource will submit their application for site plan review on June 2 for a June 16 public hearing.

She updated the Board on the status of the transformer noise abatement project affecting the Pinney and Ford properties. During a recent outage, sound pads were installed and pipes partially filled with sand were added. The sound level was tested and exceeded the target of 20 decibels at the nearest residence by 2.4 decibels. There was some discussion about how the target

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level was determined and Mr. Pinney said the original target was stated by Mr. Fraser as being “inaudible.” Eversource said “inaudible” is less than 20 decibels.

Eversource plans to completely fill the sand pipes and install sand bags around the perimeter of the transformer to lower the decibel level to 20. Kavarnos asked Mr. Pinney if he would allow sound testing equipment to be placed on his property to determine the decibel level once the new plan is completed at the next scheduled outage, expected to be the after the 15th. Both he and Mr. Ford noted that they had heard the noise on May 3rd and 4th and it was quite loud.

There are several plans being considered if the current plan cannot reach the 20 decibel target, including walls around transformers, which Homeland Security is “pushing” for security reasons.

Matt Robinson was introduced from LandWorks and he presented new visuals for the Board to consider regarding the Eversource plans for plantings at the entrance to the substation, along the Old Route 12 roadway across the wetland area and the on the rip-rap hill on the northeast side of the substation. He detailed the kinds of plantings for each area, selecting trees and shrubs that are native and that will thrive in the various conditions in each area. The goal is to screen the station and power lines using canopy and base vegetation to blend in with the existing forested areas. Trees were chosen to blend in with and enhance the iconic scenic fall look of that area.

The Board was appreciative of the plan but wondered how the Town could be assured that the plan would be implemented as presented tonight. Kavarnos explained that LandWorks has contacted various nurseries to insure the trees and shrubs were available, and the nurseries would do the planting. Eversource would give a check to the Town to cover the costs of the material and labor, with a 10% contingency for die-off, adding that the nursery would be responsible for re-planting in that case.

Pini asked if a forester could oversee the project. Robinsons said LandWorks would oversee the project to insure the materials used were correct and healthy and that the work was done according to plan, but they do not do long term maintenance.

Mr. Ford suggested that since PSNH is not trusted generally, incorporating maintenance in the conditions for site plan review. He emphasized that severe weather can damage trees and future maintenance needs to be addressed in the permitting process. There was also some discussion about bonding for the security.

Silverman asked if the Selectmen had seen this plan, because to him it sounded like the administration of the project was being passed off to the town. He sees maintenance as Eversource’s job; they didn’t do what they said they would do following the substation installation and it has diminished the beauty of the town.

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Silverman said he is concerned about the original proposed corridor for the Q166 line, which will not be used now, since option 3 moved the line out of the new proposed corridor. Kavarnos said Eversource will keep that easement for future use.

Gray confirmed that from her understanding of the proposed pipeline route, the proposed plantings will not be disrupted if the pipeline does come though. Eversource agreed.

Gray also confirmed that pipeline gas will not serve the Fitzwilliam substation. Mr. O'Hara said Eversource is in the process of selling all their power generation stations. Gray said there is a lot of questionable information floating around. Mr. O'Hara said he has talked with Kinder Morgan to insure they have the information they need to stay a safe distance away from the Eversource power lines to keep the pipeline safe.

Silverman added that the Gas Act precludes oversight of pipeline construction.

Pini noted the graphics presented show simulated planting but actual infrastructure. She asked if the next presentation could be simulated planting and simulated infrastructure. She also asked for a depiction of the views heading north on Route 12. He said he could do that. Mr. Duren said option 3 will be at a lower elevation than the actual infrastructure shown in the graphics. The Q166 line will depart the substation at a lower elevation.

Silverman said the plan looks good, but wants Eversource to maintain the plantings in perpetuity.

7:45 PM Preliminary consultation. Tanton Mattson to discuss acquiring a lot in the Mulcahey subdivision on Webb Hill Road. **NO SHOW.**

Silverman gave a brief synopsis of the pipeline meeting he attended on Monday. The discussion included interviewing attorneys, regional vs local approaches, consensus around making it "to hard" in NH as was done in MA and defeat the pipeline, and demonstrating the lack of need for a pipeline in New England.

Election of officers was postponed until a full board is present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.