

**DRAFT**  
**Town of Fitzwilliam**  
**Planning Board Meeting**  
**February 21, 2017**

**Members Present:** Terry Silverman, Suzanne Gray, Robin Blais, Paul Haynes, Tom Parker  
**Others Present:** Susan Silverman, Selectman, Wetlands Scientist Rick Van Der Poll

**Call to Order:** 7:00 PM

**7:00 PM Preliminary consultation. Terry Sillanpaa** to discuss operating Tomorrow's Promise Animal Rescue, Inc., a non-profit animal rescue.

Ms. Sillanpaa described her organization as an animal rescue and fostering group, staffed by volunteers. There will be no shelter structure or kennel facilities, and there will be no signage. She is in the process of becoming a non-profit corporation in NH.

Rescue animals will most likely come from southern states to be placed in foster homes immediately. The organization will focus on young animals and "death row" animals, slated for euthanasia. They do not plan to have any animals that have the reputation as being vicious. They also will prioritize rescuing "new mothers." They will have a 24 hour hotline to report newborn orphan animals. They will only take rescues for which there are foster families available.

Ms. Sillanpaa reported that several local fundraising dinners are planned with proceeds going to Tomorrow's Promise Animal Rescue, Inc. to help pay for pet food and to keep adoption fees low. The organization's costs include transport and vet fees. They will get reduced rates for spay and neuter procedures. She plans to have a large media presence to promote the rescue operation.

Silverman moved, Gray seconded and the Board approved the Animal Rescue under Section 127-14-A, a home occupation, which does not require a site plan review.

**7:15 PM Public Education Meeting:** Designed to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and learn more about the Wetlands Protection Overlay District Ordinance amendments, and discuss the value of Prime Wetlands with Rick Van Der Poll, wetlands scientist.

While no members of the public were present, Mr. Van der Poll reported that the Fitzwilliam Prime Wetlands Project will protect 77 acres of Prime Wetlands in town. He noted that water quality protection was high on the list of things residents wanted for Fitzwilliam, adding it was even a higher priority than protecting the rural character of the town. He said it was the highest priority in Fitzwilliam and the Prime Wetlands Study is a part of achieving that goal.

Mr. Van der Poll said Fitzwilliam has the highest amount of surface water in the state, with 20% of its land underwater. It is also unique in that it has three watersheds draining the town, making the likelihood of flooding low.

Parker wondered if the enforcement system was working. Apparently it is, since the number of residences has increased over the years, but few variances have been requested. The Wetlands Protection Overlay District procedures allow residents to make changes under specific conditions that will protect wetlands. The proposed

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ordinance changes for 2017 incorporate the prime wetlands as designated by the Town in the existing wetlands ordinance.

Silverman noted that the prime wetlands ordinance will provide evidentiary support of local action regarding large projects that may impact wetlands, like the pipeline, by indicating the town's commitment to protecting water quality.

Gray asked about results in other towns that passed prime wetlands ordinances. Mr. Van der Poll said only 1 of 33 towns who adopted Prime wetlands protection ordinances repealed their ordinance. The town went on to pass legislation protecting all wetlands in their town. He added that 1-2 towns add prime wetlands every year.

Parker asked about enforcement. Mr. Van der Poll said consistency of code enforcement is crucial.

There was some discussion about future connection of the two wetlands spanning Pierce Road. Maps, FAQ sheets and proposed warrant articles will be available for public review prior to voting on March 14, 2017.

**Minutes.** The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 3, 2017 meeting. Silverman moved, Gray seconded and the Board approved the minutes as written.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.