

BETHLEHEM PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
BETHLEHEM TOWN BUILDING MEETING ROOM

March 14, 2012

Present: Andrea Bryant, Chairman Don Lavoie, Alecia Loveless, Rose Israel, Pat Doughty

Chairman Lavoie opened the Planning Board meeting at 6:15 pm.

Chairman Lavoie appointed alternates Andrea Bryant and Rose Israel as full voting members for the purpose of this public hearing.

Chairman Lavoie read the public notice for this evening's hearing.

"The Bethlehem Planning Board will hold a public hearing at 6:15 pm on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at the Bethlehem Town Building (3rd floor) 2155 Main Street, Bethlehem to hear an application for an amendment to and partial closing of an existing gravel pit as per RSA 155E. The subject gravel pit is owned by the 750 Acre Club and operated by Presby Construction and is located on Prospect Street, tax map 406 lot 037.

Thad Presby presented the plan to the Board. As there was no checklist for this particular situation, the Board used the checklist from the inspection report done on the gravel pit in the summer of 2011.

Mr. Presby noted that the slope is closer to a 2:1 slope and not 1:1.

There was some discussion on whether the Board would choose to waive the 4" topsoil requirement in this case. There was also discussion regarding erosion and regrowth.

There were no abutters present for this hearing.

A letter from abutter Lorraine White was read into the record. Chairman Lavoie will respond to her e-mail.

Andrea Bryant moved to accept the closure plan, using the existing soil for cover and waiving the 4" topsoil requirement. The motion was seconded by Alecia Loveless and carried 5-0.

Chairman Lavoie stated that this is a private gravel pit and no stockpiling of material will be allowed. An inspection will be conducted after the reclamation is completed.

Thad Presby discussed his proposed plan to install a larger oil storage tank on the former MacEddie property on Route 302. He noted that the property as a former gas station predated town zoning. He plans to come in to the Board with a plan for their review.

In other business, Pat Doughty moved to approve the minutes of February 8, 2012 as amended. The motion was seconded by Rose Israel and carried 5-0.

Alecia Loveless moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2012 as amended. The motion was seconded by Pat Doughty and carried 5-0.

There was lengthy discussion on the Master Plan. There is interest by the Board to get this document updated. Peter Roy had the Master Plan burned to a disc which he has donated to the Town Office.

The Board discussed Dollar General. Chairman Lavoie noted that there is an application for a store in Chester, Vermont. To date they have conducted 8 Public Hearing on this application. The plans for the Chester store presented were for the cheapest designed store with one full time employee with benefits and all other employees will be part-time.

There was some discussion regarding the artist rendition pictures which were put on the webpage at the Selectmen' request. The Planning Board felt that this was premature on the part of the Select board and would like to see these pictures removed from the web page.

The board will adopt their Rules of Procedure at their next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Sargent

Administrative Assistant