

BETHLEHEM PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

BETHLEHEM TOWN BUILDING MEETING ROOM

MAY 4, 2011

Present: Alecia Loveless, Chairman Don Lavoie, Dan Webb, Harold Friedman, Mike Ritter, Teresa Wood

Alternates: Andrea Bryant, Jeanne Robillard, Rose Israel

Chairman Lavoie opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Dale Sollars and Steve Boulanger were in to discuss Mr. Sollars boundary line adjustment which was approved by the Planning Board last month. It was discovered after the public hearing that the lot in question had already been merged back in 2005. Mr. Sollars will now have to subdivide in order to provide a lot for his daughter. The boundary line adjustment application was submitted in error by the agent.

Pat Doughty asked if the fees can be waived as the prior application was submitted in error.

There was some discussion among the board members regarding waiving the fee. It was noted that the error was not on the part of the town, in which case the fees could have been waived.

Pat Doughty moved to waive the fees for Mr. Sollars Subdivision application. The motion died for lack of a second.

Chairman appointed Jeanne Robillard as full voting member for the meeting. Alecia Loveless and Teresa Wood stepped off the board.

Pat Doughty asked Chairman Lavoie if this should be voted on by the entire board. Chairman Lavoie noted that at a former meeting it was agreed that the Chairman would have the discretion of appointing the alternate to the board.

Teresa Wood and Christina Ferrara presented a request for waiver of site plan review to the Planning Board. They are in the process of purchasing the former Angelica's Restaurant. They plan to open a new restaurant called Terra on Main. The Board had the original file from when the site plan had first been granted.

There will be no changes to the building or the building site. There will be a new sign advertising the restaurant

It was noted by Don Lavoie that there have been no changes to the Site Plan Regulations since the site plan was approved for Angelica's.

Harold Friedman moved to waive site plan review for Terra on Main. The motion was seconded by Mike Ritter and carried 6-0.

Alecia Loveless and Teresa Wood came back to the Board.

Chairman Lavoie read the public notice for Public Service of New Hampshire.

David Crane was present representing PSNH. Nathan Baker and Shane Dion were there representing Apshland.

Mr. Crane explained the procedure used by PSNH. He stated that trees which are decayed or dying are taken down before they can fall on the power lines and take out the power. The owners of properties where trees are to be cut are contacted by Apshland. He added that work had begun on Lewis Hill Road before he realized that this was a scenic road. When the error became known, he pulled the crew off the road. He apologized for this error and stated that PSNH will take steps to make sure that this does not happen again in the future.

Cheryl Jensen stated that she did receive a notice and filled out the card which she sent in. There was never a response to her concerns. She asked where a person goes to lodge a complaint against PSNH and was told that the PUC is in charge.

Mike Ritter stated that it sounded like a breakdown somewhere in communications with the subcontractor.

Mr. Crane stated that the trimming and clearing they do last about four years before they have to come back to the town. PSNH does not have an easement only a license to work within the easement.

Chairman Lavoie noted that the Planning Board has completed their jurisdiction by holding this public hearing.

Chairman Lavoie brought up the issue of Andy Smith and site plan review for property located on Route #116. He added that he had received e-mails from Andy Smith to Mike Ritter which he interpreted to mean that he had the go ahead to proceed without site plan review.

Pat Doughty stated that the board had agreed to send a letter to Mr. Smith and that this should have been done.

Chairman Lavoie stated that after the board agreed to send the letter, he received the e-mails from Andy Smith and wanted to run them by the Board.

There was a long discussion on how the Board should deal with this matter. A suggestion was made to contact the owner, Gilbert Block, and ask him to come in for a request to waive site plan review. As this seems to be a procedural misunderstanding, it should be easy for the Board to meet with Mr. Block and get the record straight.

Pat Doughty stated that the board voted to send a letter and this is still a valid motion. A letter should go out.

The Board discussed the contents of the proposed letter. A draft will be written and will be reviewed by the Board before it goes out.

Pat Doughty stated he had an issue with the meeting on May 18th. He stated that the Board had agreed to meet on the first and third Wednesdays and the 18th does not fall in this schedule.

Cheryl stated that this was the earliest she could schedule the public hearing and still be able to notice it legally as she had been out of the office for almost a week. Pat stated that he thought the Caledonian

Record could be used to notice. Cheryl stated that although that is true the Courier is the more widely read paper. If the Board wants to meet on the first and third Wednesday, this schedule can be adhered to.

Teresa Wood stated that everyone has conflicts with dates from time to time and this is the reason there are alternates on the Board.

At this point Chairman Lavoie moved to go into non public per 91A3 for matters of litigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Sargent

Administrative Assistant