

DRAFT

GROTON PLANNING BOARD
June 30, 2010

Present: Celine Richer, Russ Carruth, Steve Lindsey, Chair Slim Spafford, Selectboard Liaison Miles Sinclair

Absent: Jenny Burnett, Deborah Johnson

Meeting convened at 7:04 pm.

Minutes of May 26th meeting read and approved unanimously.

Board members agreed to move to New Business – New Hampshire Electric Cooperative’s request to place microwave dishes and related equipment in the SBA compound on Tenney Mountain. The ZBA has unanimously voted that the NHEC does not need a special exception as all equipment will be placed within the existing compound. Jennifer McCourt, a Land Planning and Design Engineer, described the placement of a 10’ x 20’ unmanned equipment building, plus 3 radio panels and 2 microwave dishes to be added to the existing tower. She showed a letter of authorization from the land owner, SBA Towers II LLC. Present, also, was Peter Phipps, Project Manager for NHEC, who addressed the need for this project. There is power to this location now. He explained that during power outages phone lines cannot be counted on for communication. Critical data needs to be gathered and sent, mountain to mountain. Propane powered generators will be the backup. The propane tanks will be flown in. An intrusion system will be installed. No activity will begin on Tenney until fall. Thirteen mountain tops must be completed by March 28, 2013, as stipulated in their Cyber security plan, already approved. Motion made by Celine, 2nd by Miles that NHEC does not need site plan review, for the same reason as was considered for T Mobile – no impact to area. All board members approved said motion. Dave Leone asked why NHEC would not be required to have site plan review. Board members told him their decision was based on the facts that this project is using existing compound area, 72’ x 100’ and there will be no impact of people on site.

Mike Ethier came before the board for an excavation permit. The Chair explained that a permit could not be issued before Mike goes to the ZBA. Mike gave copies of Grafton Superior Court’s decision regarding his remediation of environmental damage from unpermitted excavation and mining of gravel in the Cockermouth River aquifer and floodway. The only permit mentioned there-in was Wetlands permit #87-268, which Mike did not present. He insisted on showing plans for all the excavating he has done on his property over the years. Mike was given an application for an excavation permit so that he could begin gathering the necessary paperwork even before appearing before the ZBA. He also brought a plan showing how he wishes to subdivide his property – land apart from home site. Mike wants to form an association for maintenance of roads. He was told he could find subdivision regulations on line.

The board then began to work on forming Excavation Regulations for Groton. Miles expressed his desire to have the least possible impact on private homeowners. The board members went page by page on Alexandria's regulations, making desired changes. Due to the late hour and the shared desire to carefully write these regulations, a work session was agreed to by board members for July 14th, 5:30 pm.

Celine moved, Steve 2nd, to adjourn at 9:35 pm. No objections heard.

Sharon Nelson
Clerk