

Groton Planning Board
Draft Minutes 2/26/14

Present: Chairman Slim Spafford, Dave Labar, Celine Richer, Ray Blake, Jenny Burnett and Select Board Liaison Miles Sinclair. Absent: Deb Johnson, Russ Carruth, Sherry Nelson

Also present: Derek Rieman, Project Manager for EDP Renewables and his attorney Mark Belliveau, Esq.

The minutes of 12/11/13 were not printed for the meeting so we still have not approved them and will have to do so at the next meeting. The minutes of 1/29/14 were read and approved unanimously after a minor correction to an organizations nomenclature, except Miles abstained as he had not been present.

Meeting came to order at 7:13.

We shelved Old Business as Deb was unable to be here to bring the Master Plan Revision she has been working on.

Under New Business, Celine and Slim had seen a webinar regarding voluntary and involuntary lot mergers, which they thought was valuable. Slim allowed the Town was compliant with the posting requirements. He also noted that if a Town landowner had issues, they should see the Select Board. Another webinar was coming up March 18th and would be about Conflict of Interest in Town government; information was passed around.

Next order of business was that the Planning Board had received a letter 2/11/14 from Derek Rieman of EDP regarding the previously discussed proposal to cross Groton land via Hardy Country Rd. over to the town of Alexandria in order to put up a meteorological (met) tower. After further recognizance they now plan to utilize Spruce Ridge Road instead. The letter requested we communicate in writing to Alexandria affirming that any Groton Planning Board concerns are satisfied, as Spruce Ridge is now the planned access. This communication is required by statute- the receiving and conveying towns must document discussion.

Attorney Belliveau stated that EDP has secured a lease agreement with Maxam to allow access over Spruce Ridge Rd. Slim inquired as to whether there was a copy of the lease available. This document was not on hand as Mr. Belliveau had not thought it would be requested. He went on to say that the town of Alexandria had issued a conditional permit to EDP to allow access. The five conditions imposed were:

- ❖ Obtain FAA approval (this has been done)
- ❖ Obtain a letter from Groton allowing access
- ❖ Construct a fence around the tower
- ❖ Supply a date by which the tower will be removed, and a bond amount (Alexandria plans to consult with Groton regarding the bond amount)
- ❖ EDP must provide Alexandria with copies of all other permits associated with the project.

Celine moved we obtain a letter from Maxam proving the access agreement before providing the letter to Alexandria. Dave seconded and all were in favor.

At this point Jenny Tuthill spoke up from the audience, stating that when Maxam had originally negotiated for explosives storage the Alexandria Conservation Commission had reached an agreement with Maxam that the land would have no other use, that the storage would be its "single purpose." However they have not been able to locate documentation of this thus far. This is out of our jurisdiction but was provided for information purposes. All audience members departed at this point.

Last order of business was Slim read a piece from the Bristol Town Crier that had language about lighting that he thought was well done and described what Groton townspeople would likely approve of. We agreed and will save it for potential future ~~plagiarism~~ use.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.