

Town of Conway

Minutes of the Conway Planning Board Meeting, January 15, 2015

Present: Joseph Strzegowski, David Barten, Mary McClintock, Sue McFarland and David Chichester.

Absent:

Chairman Strzegowski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. The minutes of the meeting of December 18, 2014, were approved. Unanimous.
2. Mr. Strzegowski presented copies of two letters that he had received from a third party source, written by Lori Ferry of AECOM, a company in Providence, RI, claiming to be working on behalf of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company. The letters were addressed to the Shelburne Planning Board and Franklin County Cooperative Public Health Service and were requesting extensive information about aquifer protection areas, public surface waters supplying public drinking water, known existing or proposed public or private drinking water wells within specified buffer zones, etc. It appeared that Conway had not received a similar letter and discussion concluded that Chairman Strzegowski should initiate contact with Ms Ferry to determine why Conway was apparently not included. Voted unanimously.

ACTION ITEM:

- Mr. Strzegowski will write to Ms Ferry at AECOM to inquire.
3. Reporting for the AdHoc Pipeline Committee, Ms McFarland advised that their Final Report had been written and accepted by the Committee and will be forwarding it to the Selectboard. The Committee has not recommended any further action be taken and, unless asked to do something further by the Selectboard, considers their mission to be complete.
 4. Mr. Strzegowski and Mr. Barten reported that the AdHoc Wastewater Committee had a very good meeting. Requests for bids to conduct a Feasibility Study were sent out to potential consulting firms on December 23rd and responses are due back by January 23rd. The proposals will be reviewed by the Committee at their next meeting and recommendations will be forwarded to the Selectboard.
 5. Mr. Strzegowski reported on recent activity related to the South River Mitigation Project, which also encompasses the Affordable Housing and Town Park initiatives. He described a meeting on January 8th (following an earlier meeting in December) to further review plans and drawings in preparation for submitting them for approval to the several regulatory authorities, including the DEP and Natural Heritage. Apparently there have been legitimate differences of opinions and objections offered and it is now up to the engineers who proposed the plans to present the final approach, provide data and defend their designs. The next meeting date has not been set.
 6. It was noted that the Kinder Morgan Pipeline Open House Meeting at the Greenfield Community College is planned for February 5th, the next regularly scheduled Planning Board Meeting. The Board decided to hold its next regular meeting on January 29th and cancel the one on the 15th.
 7. Mr. Strzegowski had previously mailed to members drafts of proposed changes to the Protective Bylaws, for selected sections. The PB had previously approved them. However, he had made some additional format changes after discussion with the Town Clerk and asked for final approval from the PB. Vote taken. All elements approved. Unanimous.

8. There was a lengthy discussion about the considerable junk and unregistered vehicles located on the property of the Sunset Package Store on Route 116. Additionally, the Board had received a written complaint from a Conway resident, noting the recent public announcement about change in ownership and asking that the Board “encourage them to dispose of...the terrible eyesore.”

It was determined that, per Massachusetts General Law, (Chapter 140, Section 58) licenses may be granted by the Selectboard, according to different categories:

Class 1 = New car dealers

Class 2 = Buying and selling used car dealers

Class 3 = Junk license for buying, reassembling or selling used cars and/or parts or tires.

Ms McFarland had earlier checked with the Town Administrator, Tom Hutcheson, and determined that Sunset Package had been issued a Class 2 license and there was no limitation as to the number of cars they could have for sale. The question at hand is whether the license covers cars stored on what appears to be property not directly attached to the business.

ACTION ITEM:

- Ms McFarland agreed to talk with both present and new owners, advising that:
 - The Planning Board has received a complaint from a resident about the conditions at the Sunset Package Store premises and adjoining properties.
 - The Board will be proposing a new bylaw at the next Town Meeting that will specifically prohibit open air storage of junk, including inoperable motor vehicles, trash, debris, scrap materials, etc.
 - The Board does not want them to be surprised that such action is being proposed and would like for them to have a reasonable period to take corrective action in advance of this becoming a public issue.
 - Before Town Meeting, the Board would like to see some corrective progress made in cleaning up the premises.
- Mr. Strzegowski will respond to the complainant to advise there has been a discussion at the PB meeting, his concern was reviewed and follow-up action is being taken.

9. New Business:

- As with all Town committees, the Planning Board has been asked to submit its Annual Report for Fiscal '14 by February 28th. Ms McClintock will assemble it but has asked all PB members to submit to her the cogent items that should be included in the report. Submissions should be provided to her by January 28th.

There being no further business, the members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 29th, 2015; 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

David I Chichester