

ANTRIM PLANNING BOARD

February 20, 2001 Meeting

Public Hearing

Members present: Ed Rowehl
Bill Prokop
Denise Dargie
Spencer Garrett
Peter Beblowski
Fred Anderson
Eric Tenney

Members absent: Bob Bethel
Tom Mangieri
Mary Wardman

Public attendees: David Crane, Regional Arborist, PSNH
Dick Cutting, Plant Engineer, MCT Telecon

Chairman Rowehl called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. He announced that it was a Public Hearing to hear the request of MCT Telecom and PSNH to replace some existing poles, install new poles and associated tree removal and trimming along Elm Avenue and at the intersection of Smith Road which are designated as a Scenic Roads. The Secretary confirmed that the hearing was publicized in the February 1st and February 8th issues of the Peterborough Transcript as required by RSA 231:151:II. Mr. Rowehl then asked for representatives of MCT Telecon and PSNH to present their request.

Mr. Cutting of MCT said that their company wanted to run new fiber optical cables down Elm Ave. and make upgrades to the existing facilities. There currently is a section on Elm Ave. near Smith Road that does not have any poles. Their objective is to close the gap along Elm Ave. which would require about 7 new poles. They plan to shorten the span between poles to permit more zig zagging across the street which would minimize the number of trees to be cut and/or trimmed. The new facility would be used in conjunction with the existing underground facility. It is currently the responsibility of PSNH to maintain the poles located in Antrim. At this time only MCT will be located on the new poles to be installed. Mr. Cutting noted that the trees to be removed had been marked by ribbons and that they had taken pains to minimize the number of trees that have to be removed.

Mr. Rowehl said he had visited the area on February 18th. He estimated that about ten trees were to be removed. Mr. Cutting said that was about right and noted that MCT had contacted all property owners that abutted the area where the new lines and poles were to be installed to receive their permission. Mr. Beblowski asked why was it necessary to add poles when an underground facility already existed. Mr. Cutting said that the underground facility was copper cables and the new facility on the poles would be fiber optic cables. Mr. Beblowski asked if the fiber optic cable would be run down Smith

Road. Mr. Cutting said that it would not. Mr. Tenney asked for a clarification of the “loop” that Mr. Cutting referred to. Mr. Cutting explained that the current system runs down Route 202 up Route 31 and up Route 9 to the Hawthorne switching station. By having a continuous line from Route 202 to Route 9 via Elm Ave. they would be able to maintain service if there is a break along the old route. Mr. Rowehl noted that some poles had already been replaced prior to the public hearing. Mr. Crane of PSNH said that this was the replacement of existing poles with taller poles and did not require the removal or trimming of trees; hence his opinion was that permission of the Planning Board was not required. Mr. Beblowski noted that some large trees on the Ring property had been cut down. Mr. Crane said that it had not been done by any vendors to PSNH and he was not aware of who may have cut down the trees.

At this point Mr. Rowehl advised the Board that it was their prerogative to have a site review if they so desired. Mr. Beblowski asked how tall the new poles would be. Mr. Cutting said they would be between 40 and 45 feet. Mr. Beblowski noted that the tree canopy in the area was very dense and asked if MCT was planning on cutting into it. Mr. Cutting said that their lines would not be on the top of the poles but in the communication area which was about 25 feet up and it would not be necessary to trim above that height. Mr. Rowehl asked if there were any other questions from the Board and went on to state that he did not know how much trimming would have to be done. Mr. Crane said that there would be very little trimming done along the existing line where the shorter poles were being replaced by the taller poles. Mr. Cutting reiterated his previous comments that the larger trees to be removed had been marked by red ribbons. Mr. Rowehl said that he felt there should be a site review and he wondered how the other Board members felt. Mr. Beblowski said he drives down the road twice a day and there was no need for him to review the site. Mr. Garrett said that he would not object to a site review but felt no need for one. Ms. Dargie felt there was no need to see the area. Mr. Cutting asked if any comments had been received by the Board from any abutters. The Secretary indicated that there had been none.

Mr. Anderson asked what the orange markers were that were spaced along the lines.. Mr. Cutting said that they were plastic markers to identify and protect fiber optic cables. Mr. Anderson did not think much about the orange color and felt that perhaps they should be changed when used on scenic roads. Mr. Cutting said that the orange identifiers were the industry standard and implied that they could not be changed. Mr. Crane added that the markers were important for the tree trimmers to identify the fiber optic cables. Mr. Rowehl asked if the markers were at every pole. Mr. Cutting replied in the affirmative. Mr. Rowehl felt it was a visual item. Mr. Garrett asked if the identifying markers were installed now. Mr. Cutting said that they were not as the lines had not yet been installed but he did confirm that there would be one on every pole. Mr. Rowehl then poled the remaining members present to see if they wished to perform a site review. Messrs. Anderson, Tenney and Prokop felt there was no need to. Mr. Rowehl then asked if there were any other matters to be discussed. There were none. Mr. Tenney made the following motion: “Move to approve the request of MCT Telecom and PSNH to install and maintain poles and install telephone lines as well as necessary tree cutting and trimming as outlined in MCT Telecom letters of January 9, 2001 and January 25, 2001 and PSNH

letter of February 8, 2001 with supporting documentation in accordance with RSA 231:158:II' The motion was seconded by Ms. Dargie. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Tenney – aye, Mr. Garrett – aye, Ms. Dargie – aye, Mr. Rowehl – aye. The motion was carried.

Mr. Rowehl concluded the public hearing and moved on to the business portion of the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Garrett, seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the minutes of the 1/9/01 meeting and unanimously passed. A motion was made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Garret to approve the minutes of the 1/23/01 meeting and unanimously passed. A motion was made by Mr. Tenney, seconded by Mr. Beblowski to approve the minutes of the 1/30/01 meeting upon the correction of the word “dedicated” and unanimously passed. A motion was made by Mr. Garrett, seconded by Mr. Prokop to approve the minutes of the 2/13/01 meeting upon the correction of Mr. Garrett’s name and unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Beblowski, seconded by Mr. Anderson to cancel the 3/13/01 meeting because of the conflict with the Town voting day and reschedule it for 3/20/01 and unanimously passed. A motion was made by Mr. Garrett; seconded by Mr. Beblowski to cancel the 4/10/01 meeting in view of the absence of the Chairman and reschedule it to 4/17/01 and unanimously passed. A motion was made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Dargie that the 4/17/01 be a public hearing on the Master Plan to replace the meeting of 2/13/01 at which a quorum was not present and unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Tenney, seconded by Ms. Dargie to appoint the Secretary, Mr. Vasques, as an alternate to the Planning Board and unanimously passed.

The Secretary asked if any members of the Board wished a complete copy of the Master Plan for review. Mr. Beblowski said he would like one. Mr. Rowehl reviewed recent correspondence and communications copies of which were in the members folders. The Secretary advised the Board of a public hearing scheduled for 3/6/01 on an appeal to the ZBA by Amy Zaluki-Stone & Douglas Stone of the 12/12/00 decision by the Board granting Mr. Buschbaum permission to operate a portable sawmill.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Garrett to adjourn the meeting and unanimously passed. Mr. Rowehl adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Paul L. Vasques, Secretary
Antrim Planning Board