

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 26, 2018
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30 pm – Chairman Pitman called the public hearing to order

Present: Richard Pitman, Chairman; Andrew Robertson, Vice Chairman. Fred McGarry, Jeff Shute and Cindy McHugh, Selectpersons.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Pitman asks all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Pitman read the following notice for the public hearing.

“The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in accordance with RSA 231:133-a on Monday, November 26, 2018 at 5:30pm. This hearing shall be held for the purpose of re-addressing a property on Meetinghouse Hill Road. The hearing shall be held in the downstairs conference room of the George B. White Building, 8 Raymond Road, Deerfield, NH.”

Chairman Pitman asked if anyone would like to speak regarding this public hearing.

Mr. Richard Pelletier, Building inspector for the Town of Deerfield

Currently he stated that there is a lot on Meetinghouse Hill Road was recently sold. It was a lot formerly owned by the Cady family. They built on the first lot and the subsequent lot is owned by the Dionne's. The third lot is currently vacant and is in the process on being built on and there is a lot subsequent to that.

The numbering currently goes 18, 19, 20, the Dionne's lot is 28. The vacant lot has no number and the subsequent lot is 30 so he stated that he needs to renumber 28 in order to have numbers available for the current vacant lot.

The proposal would be to make 28, 22; make the vacant lot 24 and retain the remaining two number 26 and 28 for future use if necessary.

The current owners are not amicable to the change and so therefore this is the reason for the public hearing in order for the Board to determine what to do.

He stated that he also had a representative from the state, Kenni Lynn Dempsey who is the E-911 coordinator from the Department of Safety.

Chairman Pitman asked Mr. Pelletier to go over the numbering again to which he stated that 28 is the Dionne's which they do currently have a house at 28.

Mr. Pelletier stated that the Dionne's currently have a home at 28 Meetinghouse Hill Road. There are residents at 20 Meetinghouse Hill Road. That was a house that was built by Aaron Cady a few years ago. Just above 28 there is another driveway that goes to about a 30-acre parcel and that has currently been sold and in the process of being built upon. It needs an address.

He continued as they could see, the next lot is 30 so there is nothing between 28 and 30.

Mr. Pelletier continued to stated that he has numbers of 22, 24, and 26 as unused. He would suggest to slide the numbers up to make the appropriate adjustment so that he could have an address for the current vacant lot.

Chairman Pitman asked if that was going to be a single family on the 30 acres to which Mr. Pelletier replied that it was.

Chairman Pitman asked if anyone else would like to speak.

Ms. Dionne – 28 Meetinghouse Hill Road

She stated that she lived at 28 Meetinghouse Hill Road.

She stated that she was wondering how the lot was even split knowing that it would need an address because originally it was supposed to be used as a road so she was wondering how the house was even purchased, having no address and was split knowing this. She also stated that she was never notified of it being split. She was wondering how that could have even happened and why are they sharing the driveway? Why isn't it an "A" or "B" or a "1" or "2"? Why is this even happening?

Chairman Pitman called upon Selectman McGarry.

Selectman McGarry stated that she would have received a notice on the subdivision taking place for those lots.

Ms. Dionne stated that she didn't receive anything. Especially with the mail in this town.

Chairman Pitman asked Ms. Dionne how long they had owned their home to which she answered that she has lived there for eight years.

Selectman McGarry stated that the subdivision ended up taking place and Ms. Dionne added that it has been going on for a while. It was supposed to be a shared driveway as she understood when they couldn't do the subdivision to build the multiple houses back there.

Selectman McGarry stated that this wasn't the case.

Ms. Dionne asked what was she suppose to do at this point because she didn't want to change an address that her children have known for eight years and that she would have to change so much. It would be so much cost and stress to change all this stuff just because someone bought something that was suppose to be one lot or a street. Now her life is going to be changed around because somebody split a lot that she was unaware of.

Ms. Dionne stated that her and Ms. Cady have a history. She has given them grief ever since a month after they moved into their house wanting to have access to their property, to maintain it so that she could build the five houses back there. She has called the wetlands people on them, anything that was done to their property that she could call someone about, she has called about it. She continued to state that she didn't even know why Ms. Cady was even here because she didn't own property.

Chairman Pitman and Vice Chairman Robertson stated that it was a public hearing so Ms. Cady could speak.

Chairman Pitman called on Ms. Cady.

Ms. Cady stated that she was almost positive that Mr. Dionne was at the hearing when that land was subdivided. There were two roads going into that lot which was about 36 acres. One went to the house that Aaron built. The other road was above the Dionne's so that was the other access into the lot.

Ms. Cady continued that there were 36. something acres and 7.4 acres or something like that, went with the house that Aaron built.

Ms. Dionne stated that her husband wasn't there and Chairman Pitman asked Ms. Dionne to let Ms. Cady finish.

Ms. Cady stated if they looked at the records of the minutes of the Planning Board meeting, you will find that they were notified with a certified letter and she stated that she was almost positive that Mr. Dionne came and the subdivision was granted. The further subdivision wasn't allowed and she deeded all of the land to Aaron and he ended up selling the bigger piece to the people that Mr. Pelletier is now speaking about.

The problems with the Dionne's are personal and private. Only they have built a building on her land and she asked it to be moved. She stated that she didn't even ask to have it moved the full zoning restriction of 35 feet from the boundary, just that it be taken off her land.

She continued that she thought that if they understood, there were two roads going into the land. The second road is the one above the Dionne's. The first road, number 20, sold with the house. If they didn't want to put them in sequence, leaving the Dionne's with 28 and make the second lot, 22, because 20 is abutting it.

Chairman Pitman asked if Ms. Dempsey would like to speak.

Ms. Dempsey stated that she would like to speak in regards to the suggestion to possibility of not having them sequenced.

As far as the state's 911, they would recommend against that. The reason why they prefer to have sequential numbers is for fire and emergency vehicles to be able to find people in emergencies and out of sequence addressing is highly discouraged because it confuses the situation.

In addition, there was a question about maybe using an "A" so a "28" and a "28A". That again, is discouraged because that is considered as duplicate addressing.

What can happen is that you can have a house at "28" and a house at "28A" and if a 911 call is received that a person is not responsive, the responders are going to go to 28 because they can't verify the address if it is 28 or 28A because the person is not responsive on the line. Responders are going to show up at the address that is in the database and it is a very good possibility that the phone company might forget to put the "A". Responders are going to be sent to 28 and then they are not going to know what building to go to. Do they go to the first building or the second building? That is one of the reasons that they discourage against that.

Ms. Dempsey continued that she believed that the recommendation that Mr. Pelletier wanted to change the address for 28 is the best recommendation just so that the numbers stay in sequence.

Chairman Pitman asked if there was any Board discussion after seeing the plan.

Selectman Shute asked what the sequencing was again.

Chairman Pitman stated that Ms. Dionne could speak again.

Ms. Dionne stated that she wasn't suggesting that she share her number. She thought originally the plan for that lot was to have two houses back there so why wouldn't the houses back there share that driveway and be "A" and "B" or whatever.

She continued that their road numbers already don't work because the person across the street from them is 25 and their mailbox is actually ahead of their house. It is already not correct.

The person across from them, Nancy, her land lot is further over from theirs so the mailboxes actually go, 28, 25, so it really wouldn't make a difference if there was a 22 there.

She also stated that she told Rick Pelletier that she would be willing to change her number if she could choose her number and that she would be compensated for any costs. He stated to her that he would get back to her but never got back to her.

She stated that she wanted to be compensated for anything that she had to change. Checks, driving license, anything like that and if she could pick the number. She would prefer to keep the number that her children are learning at school because they are young. She stated that they have five children and that is the address that they have known for eight years. She stated that they plan of living there forever. They don't plan on ever moving. That is the house that are kids are being raised in and that is the house that they are going to be in. It's so sad that after eight years that they are having their address taken from them.

Chairman Pitman asked Ms. Dionne what her number of choice would be and she stated 28 but that she would take 24.

Chairman Pitman asked Mr. Pelletier if that would work. If 28 became 24 and the other be 26 which he stated that yes, it would work but it would leave 22 in limbo.

Chairman Pitman agreed but stated that right now, 26 is in limbo if you number 20, 22, 24.

Mr. Pelletier stated that basically, there is three, unused numbers; 22, 24 and 26.

Ms. Dionne asked to say one more thing.

The only other thing that she would ask for is if it were possible, as there is such a mail issue in this town, and she gets other people's mail even from Raymond, not to reissue "28".

Chairman Pitman stated that they could pretty much assure her that they won't get "28" because "30" is already on here.

Ms. Dionne stated that at least she wouldn't have that problem. Also, she stated that the only other thing that she would ask is that this don't happen until a couple of months after Christmas as she has a lot of packages that she gets between ordering and family sending. This is kind of a crappy time to have an address change.

Chairman Pitman asked Selectman McGarry what he thought about "24" instead of "26" and he stated that as long as it's okay with Rick and Rick stated that it works all right with him.

Ms. Dempsey also stated that "24" would work.

Ms. Dionne asked about compensation and stated that she didn't know what anything would cost. Obviously checks would be one thing. She didn't know how to even change the deed to the house.

Selectman McGarry stated that his numbering was changed from "23" to "21" and he never changed his deed.

Chairman Pitman stated that they are trying to work with Ms. Dionne with using "24" but he didn't think that there was anything in the budget for compensation.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that they have never done it before.

Chairman Pitman called on Ms. Dempsey once again.

Ms. Dempsey stated as far as the question regarding the deed, they wouldn't have to change anything unless they refinanced the property or if the house was sold.

Ms. Dionne stated at some point they were going to add on and if at that time the property were refinanced would there be a cost to change the deed to which Ms. Dempsey stated that she didn't know.

Ms. Dempsey stated that they might have a question regarding their homeowner's insurance but all that Ms. Dionne would do would be to provide the insurance company with a copy of the letter that states that the town has changed the address and that would be all that they would need.

Ms. Dempsey also stated as far as the DMV, they have a little sticker that they put on the back of the license and then when she went to get her new license, that's when it would be changed.

Ms. Dionne voiced her concerns about different things that might pop up regarding the address change.

Ms. Dempsey stated as far as compensation, and they know that people don't like to change their address as it isn't an easy thing, so they don't recommend it lightly when we do ask to change them unless they feel that there is going to be an issue on response or such.

Ms. Dempsey continued by stating that as far as doing it after the holidays, she thought that this was a very valid request and the other thing that she wanted to mention is compensation.

Ms. Dionne stated that she didn't want anything up front but that if something comes up, as they aren't a very wealthy family, if it came up, she would hope that someone would help them out.

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he needed the conversation to run through the chairman and not between each other.

Ms. Dempsey stated, that in all the years that she has been doing her job, she has never had a community compensate.

Ms. Dionne stated that she, when she was talking with Mr. Pelletier, would go easy if she could pick her number and get compensation but that he never got back to him.

Chairman Pitman stated that he was going to close the public hearing at this time.

Chairman Pitman asked if the Board wanted to take this under advisement or vote tonight?

Vice Chairman Robertson stated that he thought that one of the things that they could do to incorporate the time frame is to generally acknowledge that they are going to use "24" as the number to replace "28" but not to move on it this evening and wait until after the first of the year just to ensure that there is no confusion about the mailing address.

Selectman McGarry asked if they could vote on it tonight and make it effective January 1st.

Ms. Dionne interrupted and asked if they could make it a little further than January 1st? She continued that they have family in Florida and she just didn't want any issues with that.

Ms. Dempsey stated that they would ask that when the date is selected, that it is not a weekend or a Monday. When the state 911 updates all their systems to show the new address, they would prefer a mid-week date such as a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Ms. Dionne asked if it could go into February if that were possible. She stated that she is just concerned about Christmas gifts, that's all.

The Board discussed dates among themselves and came up with January 30th, 2019.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to renumber to 24 Meetinghouse Hill Road, the effective date of January 30th, 2019

Second: Selectman Shute

Discussion: Selectwoman McHugh asked if the new house was already built to which it was answered by Ms. Dionne as no it wasn't. She was just asking for the fire department so they would know if there was a house up there.

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Public hearing was closed.

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dianne L. Kimball, Recording Secretary
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*