

**Lyme Planning Board Minutes**  
**August/11/2011**

Board Members and Staff Present: John Stadler Vice Chair; Simon Carr Select Board Representative; Vicki Smith Member; Tim Cook Member; David Robbins Planning and Zoning Administrator

Board Members Absent: David Roby, Chair; Freda Swan Alternate; Ben Kilham Alternate; Sam Greene Alternate;

Members of the Public Present: Wayne Tullar, Shirley Tullar, Bill Cranston, Evelyn McCarthy, Chuck Hallett, Tom Kent, Marselis Parsons, Carola Lea, Charlie McCrave Bob Hall, Duncan Mackintosh, Julia Elder, Colin Robinson, Mike Smith, Jean Smith

At 7:00 pm, John as acting chair opened the public hearing:

Item 1: Public hearing, required by RSA 231:158 to discuss tree removal by the Town of Lyme along the closed portion of River Road, a designated Scenic Road.

Simon Carr presented a general synopsis of the project and an explanation as to why the cutting is necessary. Holden Engineering, NHDES and the Army Corp of Engineers have all recommended that certain trees along this portion of River Road be removed to forestall the collapse of the bank and roadway.

Several members of the public voiced a concern that the cutting may be premature, as the final decision about the road itself has not been made. Simon responded that the intent of the cutting is to try to address the partial collapse of the bank. In addition, the Town has a legal obligation to maintain the roadway as best it can, and mitigate any future damage. Further collapse of the bank and the roadway is a safety concern. Even though the road is closed, bikers and pedestrians are going around the barriers.

John asked Marselis Parsons and Carola Lea, the abutting land owners, if they had any questions or comments. Both agreed that the cutting is necessary.

Marselis commented, and Carola agreed, that any trees that were taken down should be theirs to keep and use. Simon said the Select Board would work with the tree service to ensure that the wood would be left for them.

Vicki commented that insofar as this is a Scenic Road it was the Planning Board's obligation is to make sure that any cutting is done in a manner that would minimize impact or the scenic qualities of the road. John suggested that the Board place conditions on the Boards approval, addressing these concerns. Vicki agreed that this would be satisfactory

Simon moved to approve the removal of the trees as per Holden Engineering's plans dated 8/8/11 with revisions from Collis Adams from NHDES, with the following conditions: As this section of River Rd is designated a Scenic Road, trees will be removed using Best Practices to control erosion, stumps shall be cut off as low as possible and at the grade angle to minimize the visual impact. Any branches that are trimmed shall be trimmed flush with the trunk of the tree. If any other trees need to be removed beyond those shown on the plan, they may only be removed with the Select Board's approval.

Vicki seconded the motion.

John called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Acceptance of minutes from July /28<sup>th</sup> /2011

Vicki moved to accept the minutes from the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting as submitted.

John seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 3: Dowds's Country Inn, request for a joint hearing with the Zoning Board of Adjustment.**

Colin Robinson attended the meeting to ask the board to hold a joint hearing with the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of a joint hearing, and decided that, in this case, the information presented to each board would not have enough in common to warrant a joint hearing.

The board also discussed with Colin the Board's Rules of Procedure and it was noted that the procedure for a petitioner to request a joint hearing is not clear. The Board agreed that they would look into clarifying that process.

**Item 4: Master Plan Discussions.**

There were no new chapters to discuss, Following up on the Public Hearing, John wished to discuss roads such as River Rd, Goose Pond Road, The Canaan Turnpike and Dorchester Rd, that have major maintenance issues and are arterial routes. John suggested considering ways the master plan could further address issues of wear and tear, maintenance costs and safety.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully Submitted

David A. Robbins

Lyme Planning and Zoning Administrator.