

**TOWN OF LYNDEBOROUGH  
PLANNING BOARD**

**WORK SESSION MINUTES: August 5, 2010**

**LYNDEBOROUGH MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Tom Chrisenton, Vice Chair Bret Mader, Bob Rogers, Bill Ball, Mike Decubellis, Selectmen's Representative Arnie Byam and Alternates Larry Larouche and Julie Zebuhr.**

Chairman Tom Chrisenton began the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Public Service Co. of New Hampshire; trimming and removal of trees and brush adjacent to and beneath its power lines on the following Scenic roads: Brackett's Cross, Crooked "S", Curtis Brook, Dutton, New, Old Temple, Salisbury and Winn Roads and Locust Lane.**

Present: David Crane, Arborist for PSNH

David Crane explained that this proposal was for PSNH's annual maintenance program for the Town of Lyndeborough which is based on a four to five year cycle. He stated that after almost five years it is evident that the tree branches have grown close to the utility wires. He said that Lyndeborough customers experience 50% more tree related outages than the average PSNH customer and added that the scenic roads have 2 ½ times more outages. The specifications for trimming and tree removal have not changed and most of the town roads will be worked on this year with a small remainder of roads completed next year.

B. Rogers asked whether PSNH would deal with two trees on New Road that make contact with the utility wires during heavy wet snowstorms and were reported to PSNH sometime last year. Mr. Crane said that he would be willing to take care of them this year and asked B. Rogers for their location. B. Rogers replied that they were located between 468 and 500 New Road.

Going back to the specifications, Mr. Crane said that Asplundh Tree Service would be removing brush and limbs that were 4 inches in diameter or less within 8 ft. of their side of the line, 10 ft. below the line and 15 ft. over the line. He said that they take down large trees on a case by case basis if they are dead, decayed or are so close that they sway into the wires when there are very windy conditions. He noted that he had submitted a list of suspect trees for removal which have already been flagged as well as a map of the proposed work area for the Board's review. Since submitting that list, he has located additional problematic trees on Crooked S Road and Dutton/Curtis Brook Roads

B. Ball asked the color of the flagging being used by PSNH. Mr. Crane replied that they are using orange ties.

Mr. Crane said that Asplundh will be contacting all landowners who will be affected by this work and listen to their concerns before the work is done. He felt that this was also a way any homeowner could alert the tree service of any potential hazard from a defective tree.

B. Rogers asked if Mr. Crane would be willing to ride around the listed scenic roads with a Planning Board representative to examine the marked trees. Mr. Crane said that he would be willing.

B. Rogers made a **motion to appoint B. Ball as the Planning Board representative on this issue and, unless there are any questionable trees, be given the authority to approve the trees to be cut.** M. Decubellis seconded the motion. The vote in favor of this appointment was unanimous.

B. Ball and Mr. Crane agreed to make arrangements to meet during the following week.

Debbie Hayden of Dutton Road, voicing her concerns, asked Mr. Crane to clarify that Asplundh would be trimming trees and removing brush and only trees that are flagged would be taken down completely. Mr. Crane said that she was correct. Ms. Hayden said that she was satisfied.

B. Ball, recalling the last cycle of tree trimming and brush removal, said that there had been concerns, after the cutting, about brush being left behind for quite some time. Mr. Crane agreed that there had been concerns and that method of operation will not be used. The chipper will remain behind the cutting crew and chip as they go along.

M. Decubellis voiced his concern about the stacking of cut pine timbers along side and against the stone walls on Rte 31. He said that the stone walls are property boundaries as well as having historic value. Mr. Crane agreed that the walls should be protected and said that he would discuss this issue with the supervisor.

B. Mader asked whether PSNH cuts around utility poles that are on private land. Mr. Crane explained that all the roads discussed this evening were for primary lines (high voltage lines). If it's a long driveway and a primary line is used then if trimming is needed they would use the same specifications as mentioned above. He explained that the line from the transformer to the house is a lower voltage line (secondary line) and there is less problem concern.

M. Decubellis asked if the State statute had given utility companies easier access to maintain the lines. He added that prior to the ice storm, land owner permission was needed. Mr. Crane explained that land owner consent is still required but the means of

obtaining that permission has been changed. First, PSNH must send notification, via US mail, to each landowner explaining the specifications for trimming and a returnable card for consent and signature of the landowner. If the card is not returned to PSNH within 45 days, it is legally considered consent. He also stated that if a landowner refuses, PSNH has a legal pole license to trim in the town's right of way.

Having no other questions or comments, the public hearing was closed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Work Force housing**

T. Christenton continued this discussion on work force housing until the September 2nd work session.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Landon Bell/Granite State Concrete Co., Inc.**

T. Christenton acknowledged the receipt of a letter from Landon Bell dated 8-2-10 and read the following:

**Ms. Chairperson of the Planning Board:**

**“I was looking through my files and came across these letters. I wanted to bring to your attention that absolutely nothing has been done to date about a buffer to my property. The only “...willingness to work with Mr. Bell...” is trying to push me into a solution that will not only solve the problem, but will physically fail. I have instructed Mr. MacLellan as to what I would accept as a buffer to no avail. If history is to repeat itself, he will call me as he has before just prior to the meeting in November to renew his permit so he can tell you he is working with me.**

**In conjunction with this problem I would like to bring to your attention that my well gave up last June and I had to drill a new one 800 feet deeper than the old one to get water at a cost of nearly \$12,000. Please put my tax dollars to work and force GSC to do what they have promised.”**

T. Christenton said that the letters mentioned above refers to 1-18-05 correspondence to Ari Pollack of Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell and 2-21-05 correspondence to Chairperson Tracey Turner.

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that a review of the terms for Granite State's permit renewal was necessary. T. Christenton said that the Planning Board did not have any authority in a dispute between parties and suggested placing this correspondence in

the file. The Board also agreed with B. Rogers' suggestion that a letter should be sent to Mr. Bell acknowledging receipt of his letter and stating that no action will be taken until Granite States applies for a renewal permit in 2011.

**MINUTES:**

**Review of minutes for July 15, 2010**

B. Rogers made a **motion to accept the minutes of 7-15-10, as written**. B. Ball seconded the motion and the vote in favor of acceptance was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

B. Rogers made a **motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.** B. Ball seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

**No meeting will be held on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. The next work session will be held on Thursday, September 2nd at 7:30 p.m.**

**Pauline Ball  
Clerk**

**Approved by the Planning Board on September 2, 2010**