

Planning Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, June 18, 2015

The twenty-seventh meeting of the Milton Planning Board for fiscal year 2015 was called to order at 6:50 p.m. in the Blute Conference Room of Milton Town Hall.

Present: Chair Emily Keys Innes, Secretary Michael Kelly, members Alexander Whiteside, and Bryan Furze; Director of Planning William Clark, and Assistant Town Planner Tim Czerwienski.

1. Administrative Items: Chair Innes read the agenda and said that Julia Getman had been hired as a clerk to the Planning Department. Next meeting dates were confirmed for June 25, July 9, and July 23. Chair Innes requested that Board members continue to work on zoning workshop presentations. On a motion by Member Whiteside, seconded by Member Kelly, the Board unanimously approved the April 9, 2015 minutes.

2. Citizen's Speak: No one spoke.

3. New Business: The Board discussed upcoming zoning workshops. The Visual Preference Survey, online survey comments and open meeting law were discussed.

4. Public Hearing: Thayer Nursery Special Permit/Site Plan Approval (continued from May 28)

Chair Innes explained the public hearing rules. The Board discussed fence options, drainage upgrades, recently adopted noise-reducing measures, and the timeline for installation of upgrades. How to determine a baseline of activity and materials at 2012 levels was discussed; drainage, septic systems, erosion control, parking and turn radiuses, pedestrian walks, and green buffers were addressed. Hours of operation, existing noise bylaws, the loading and unloading of trucks, and the selling of firewood were examined.

5. Public Comment: Chair Innes read the public comment rules.

Dr. Martin Dunn, 50 Brierbrook Road, described the importance of Thayer Nursery's legacy and asked for the granting of the special permit with reasonable restrictions.

Chris Teevens, 39 Parkwood Drive, expressed frustration with the noise levels from the nursery and said that the trees separating his property from the nursery's provide no protection.

Denise Williams, 308 Hillside Street, read a letter from Oliver Williams expressing his support of the nursery. He encouraged the Town to be flexible.

Aidan and Cindy Quinn of 22 Parkwood Drive said that they have experienced few problems with the nursery and that landscaping rules should be consistent for all Town nurseries.

A non-abutter named Carla, involved in civic projects across Milton, commended Thayer's community presence, stating that the demise of Thayer would be a significant loss to the town.

Carol Stocker, an abutter of 45 years at 291 Hillside St., said that cut-through traffic and the increasing population of the neighborhood, not the nursery, were to blame for high noise levels.

Bridget Waldbaum, 94 Parkwood Dr., asked who would be voting and if the permit would pass on to new owners. She encouraged the granting of the permit.

Andrew Cahill, 325 Hillside St., said that businesses need to evolve in order to compete, and that the nursery's plans are reasonable. He said that small businesses can be "smothered" by the process, and that a small minority of people can't drive the process.

Scott Swanson, 303 Hillside St., said that if the cost of compliance is too high, it is a "death sentence." He said that he had come to the area in part because of the nursery.

Scott Johnson, 11 Hillside St., said that Thayer, like its competitors, should be allowed to start work at 7:00 a.m., an "industry standard." He made suggestions on how to deter traffic. He said that the Oldfields have compromised a great deal and that the permit should be granted.

John Rowe, 23 Parkwood Dr., addressed issues of snow plowing, floodlights, wood delivery, 2012 baseline compliance, and hours of operation. He asked that the gas line be identified and raised drainage issues.

Using a plan, the applicant's engineer explained the drainage system and gas lines.

Philip Johanning, 23 Parkwood Dr., questioned the adequacy of the septic system and asked for a definition of "grow out area." He asked that offending activities be relocated and said that compatibility with the neighborhood is most important.

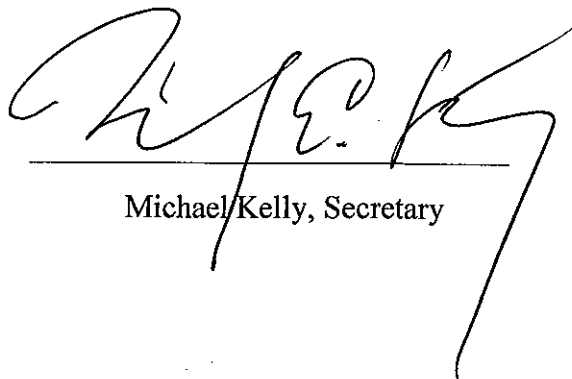
Attorney Ned Corcoran addressed the gas line, septic system, drainage, and "grow-out" questions. He urged that the hearing remain open.

Chair Innes said that the hearing would continue to July 9. A drainage review by the Town engineer, fence specifications, and Bobcat restrictions would need to be addressed.

6. Other business: It was agreed that a significant amount of time would be devoted to Thayer Nursery at the July 9th meeting.

The Board discussed upcoming agendas.

7. On a motion by Member Whiteside, seconded by Member Kelly, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.



Michael Kelly, Secretary