

New Durham Planning Board

March 11, 2006 Site Walk Minutes

Cathleen Joy Property (Tax Map 2, Lot 9)

Board Members Present: Chair Bob Craycraft, Assistant Chair Don Voltz, Mike Clarke, Alternate Cathy Orlowicz and selectman alternate Ron Gehl.

Others Present: Dave Berry of Berry Surveying and Engineering, Road Agent Mark Fuller and Mr. Harrison.

The site walk convened at 8:00am

The attendees proceeded to walk along Ridge Road Top to the existing house on Tax Map 2, Lot 9 where a culvert was washed out last year following the defoliation of the front portion of the lots located on Tax Map 2 (lot 8-1 and 8-2) and following a period of atypically heavy fall rainfall. The driveway on Tax Map 2, Lot 9 had washed out and was replaced in accordance with an engineering design provided by Berry Surveying and Engineering. The “as built” driveway consists of two 2 foot diameter culverts with rip-rap placed in the stream above and below the driveway crossing. Road agent Fuller indicated that prior to reconstruction, the previous culvert consisted of a 15” inch diameter pipe that had been partially filled with sediment. Road Agent Fuller also indicated that the downstream end of the culvert had been partially collapsed and clogged with some objects that included children’s toys. Dave Berry indicated that the erosion problem originated upstream and was associated with the defoliation of the lots that was contrary to the engineering design approved by the planning board. There was evidence that silt had accumulated in the channel since the driveway was rebuilt and Dave Berry indicated that effectiveness of the upstream erosion control measures were largely associated with the reestablishment of vegetation adjacent to the stream channel. Mr. Harrison indicated that concerns were brought to the Town’s attention but the Town was slow to act on the erosion problems and significant sediment had washed out into the stream. Ron Gehl indicated that the conservation commission had filed a complaint with the Department of Environmental Services (DES) wetlands enforcement division and that a DES inspection had taken place. Chair Craycraft indicated he was in attendance when DES had viewed the site and DES had noted some measures that were intended to help mitigate the erosion problem.

The attendees walked east along Ridge Road Top to observe potential erosion concerns while Ron Gehl walked along the stream channel and noted silt deposits in the stream. The attendees met at the driveway location proposed for the lot noted as lot 9-1. Mr. Harrison expressed his concern that the length and location of the driveway would lead to increased runoff into the stream and would increase the potential for additional sediment washout. Dave Berry suggested that the orientation of the driveway would direct the runoff off the driveway to minimize the impact of the increased surface discharge. Road agent Fuller suggested that the two lots might share a driveway to access the home sites. The attendees walked along the proposed driveway location to the septic test pit location and viewed the proposed well and proposed house locations. Mr. Harrison questioned the method used to dig the septic test pits and

questioned when the perc test was performed. The Subdivision application indicated the perc test took place on March 7, 2006 and Dave Berry indicated the pits were hand dug.

The attendees walked to the proposed lot 9-2 to view the test pit, and get a perspective of the location of the house site and the well location. The Board also walked the proposed driveway.

The attendees walked the stream along the abutter properties, New Durham Tax map 2, lot 10 and Farmington Tax Map R64, lot 15 owned by Marjorie and Robert Reinhausen and Frances Harrison, respectively. The stream ran within approximately 6 feet of Mrs. Reinhausen's house and dug well and Mr. Harrison indicated that during the heavy rainfall period last fall, the stream was running brown. Mr. Harrison pointed out depositional material near the dug well and indicated that a well test performed after the "flood" period indicated that the well was contaminated. Silt washout was also visible in the stream channel. The attendees then walked to Mr. Harrison's property where he pointed out the driveway that had been washed out during last year's storm. Mr. Harrison indicated that the culvert was replaced following the storm. Road Agent Fuller suggested that the current culvert might be undersized and Mr. Harrison indicated that he was hesitant to replace the current culvert with a larger culvert since the location is clearly visible and a larger diameter culvert would be aesthetically displeasing.

The Board concluded the site walk at 9:12 am.

Approved: March 21, 2006