

MINUTES

NEW DURHAM PLANNING BOARD

FEBRUARY 17, 2009

Chairperson Bob Craycraft called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Roll Call: Bob Craycraft (Chair), Paddy McHale (Vice-Chair), Cathy Orlowicz, David Bickford (Selectman's Representative).

Excused Absence: Paul Raslavicus

Others Present: Brad Mezquita, Arthur Capello, and Derek Sowers (Piscataqua Estuaries Project)¹

Public Input: Chair Bob Craycraft asked if there was any public input. There was none.

Stormwater Management: Chair Craycraft introduced Bradley Mezquita from Appledore Engineering. The Board has contracted with Mr. Mezquita to help them review the Zoning Ordinance and town regulations regarding Stormwater Management. Cathy Orlowicz emphasized that the Board is hoping that their work can be done through the regulations rather than ordinances. Chair Craycraft agreed with the goal of getting as much as possible done through regulation, and noted that some of their work may be possible only with changes to the ordinance.

Mr. Mezquita said he had reviewed the Town's ordinances and regulations and felt the Board had done very good work, better than many towns. He said there have been significant improvements in technology and a general change in overall perspective toward managing stormwater on site with smaller technologies. He said much of what he will recommend would be related to this new knowledge.

Mr. Mezquita noted that in the past the focus has been on directing the stormwater from a lot or development to off site drainage. That leads in many cases to taking

¹ "Piscataqua Estuaries Project" added to draft minutes

water out of a watershed and lessening the recharge of the aquifers that are used² for water resources. More recent thinking and design is focused on capturing the stormwater on the site where it falls and helping it infiltrate back into the ground at that point. This approach keeps the water available for use in the watershed and reduces the volume and velocity of water moving into ditches and streams, and also reduces the amount of sediment carried into waterways.

Mr. Mezquita responded to board questions. He told the board the new approach requires a close look at the circumstances of each individual development. It is not a one size fits all approach. He said in many cases the overall costs are less than with more traditional approaches because there are less large scale drainage or detention facilities required. He acknowledged that some technologies like porous pavement are more expensive in initial investment and added these costs will drop rapidly as the use increases.

Mezquita assured board members that the research to date shows there is no increase in winter heaving damage to porous³ pavement, and there may be fewer problems. Maintenance of porous pavement requires different machinery, not necessarily more machinery or cost.

Mr. Mezquita told the board that federal EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) requirements have been tightened and extended to cover all projects that disturb more than 1 acre of land. He said the Board needs to be sure that applicants are getting federal permits if they meet the minimum size. He added that the Board might want to coordinate its requirements for smaller projects with the EPA guidelines.

He said the new approach decreases potential health problems caused by breeding mosquitoes because it focuses on immediate infiltration of the water into the ground, rather than leaving it in standing pools. He told the Board that some towns have tried to address problems caused by ATV use by requiring the installation of protections at especially sensitive locations such as stream crossings.

Mr. Mezquita said the Town could measure its success by how well it does in preventing degradation of the town's water quality. He described the problem of TSS (total suspended solids and sediments) as being one of the biggest issues. He noted that some localities specify that at least 80% of TSS must be kept on the development property and added that the technologies he recommends will all ensure that standard is met if they are properly utilized.

Mr. Mezquita said that based on Board member comments and questions he felt he had enough sense of their concerns and interests to start drafting some new regulations. The board scheduled a continued discussion for April 21, 2009.

2 Changed from "use" in draft minutes

3 "Porous" added to draft minutes

Minutes: Board members made the following edits to the draft minutes of February 3, 2009:

1. Move Ron Gehl from the list of Board members present to the list of Others present;
2. Add LuAnne Varney to the list of others present;
3. Change the phrase “unanimous” to “unanimously approved” wherever it occurs;
4. Add the following language after the bold “Minutes” section heading and before the sentence about Cathy Orlowicz moving approval:
 - Add the name “Nicholas Bickford” to the list of Others present.

Paddy McHale moved approval of the minutes of February 3, 2009 with the amendments noted above. Cathy Orlowicz seconded. Approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Board members made the following edits to the draft minutes of July 15, 2008:

1. Strike Ron Gehl from the list of Board members present;
2. Strike the duplicate words “to the” following the words “draft a letter” and preceding the words “Board of Selectmen” in the second to last paragraph on page 3 that starts with the bold “Fire Department Construction”.
3. Change the phrase “Unanimous” to “unanimously approved” wherever it occurs.

Paddy McHale moved approval of the minutes of July 15, 2008 with the amendments noted above. Cathy Orlowicz seconded. Approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Board members made the following edits to the draft minutes of August 5, 2008:

4. Move Ron Gehl from the list of Board members present to the list of Others present;
5. Add Mark Fuller to the list of Others present;
6. Change the phrase “Unanimous” to “unanimously approved” wherever it occurs;
7. Strike the words “Road Agent Mark Fuller” on the first page at the end of the paragraph starting with the bold “Driveway Regulations” section heading.

Paddy McHale moved approval of the minutes of August 5, 2008 with the amendments noted above. David Bickford seconded. Approved unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Allen
Land Use Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved March 3, 2009