

Minutes

New Durham Planning Board

November 13, 2012

Chairperson Scott Drummey called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

Roll Call: Scott Drummey (Chair), Dot Veisel, David Bickford (Selectman's Representative), Bob Craycraft (Vice-Chair), Paul Raslavicus

Others Present: Tom Varney, Charles McKay

Public Input: Chair Scott Drummey asked if there was any public input. There was none.

McKay Excavation Permit:

An informal discussion was held as proper noticing did not take place. Tom Varney, representing Charles McKay, summarized the history of the sand and gravel pit. It has been in operation since 1986. It is designed in two phases. The first phase will take out sand and gravel to 725' above sea level. This level is almost completed. The second phase will take it to a level of 705' above sea level. The borders of the pit will not change between now and completion of sand and gravel removal.

Mr. Varney told the board that storm water drainage is not a problem because the sand is so porous the water soaks in immediately. The site is on an aquifer but there is no source of contamination. Reclamation will be fairly straightforward: it will require about 6" of till on top of the sand, then 2" of loam on top of the till.

The nearest house is over 150' away, and the brook is about 75' from any working area of the pit. The board asked Mr. Varney to add a more complete drawing of the brook.

Mr. Varney noted that the DES authorization letter was issued in 1997 and should have been updated every six years. They have submitted the materials to DES to renew the letter.

The Alteration of Terrain permit is currently valid and will need to be updated before the new Town permit expires.

The Board discussed the cost of reclamation. Mr. McKay said the estimate of about \$8,000 was based on his labor, and estimated it would take two operators and two machines about 4 days to complete the reclamation. Scott Drummey indicated he was comfortable with the estimate, and Paul Raslavicus said he would like a 3rd party estimate.

Paul Raslavicus asked how much of the pit is located in an aquifer recharge zone. David Allen brought the aquifer map from the Natural Resource Inventory and it shows the entire pit lies above the aquifer recharge zone. Tom Varney told the board that many aquifer recharge zones are covered with sand and gravel. The porous nature of sand and gravel is what creates a recharge zone by allowing water to seep quickly down to the level of the aquifer. He noted that no fuel or chemicals are kept in the pit area so there is no potential source of pollution.

The Board decided that a site walk was not necessary. A formal hearing will take place in the future.

Site Plan Design Guidelines: Paul Raslavicus reported that he and Craig Groom and Wendy Anderson had been working for several months on Design Guidelines for shaping Site Plan development in ways that are in line with the Master Plan. Wendy Anderson is a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and also a licensed landscape architect.

Originally the work group was thinking of making the guidelines binding as part of the Site Plan regulations. Based on their own discussions and feedback from the board, they are now planning that the guidelines be a separate and non binding document that is significantly shorter and less detailed than the original proposal. He noted that the Zoning Ordinance states clearly that town regulations are minimum requirements and the board can add additional requirements where necessary.

Mr. Raslavicus distributed the shortened guidelines to board members. He asked that they email any comments or questions to Wendy Anderson. Wendy will be present at the December 18 Planning Board meeting where the board will have a more complete discussion of the proposals.

David Bickford moved to adjourn at 10:28 PM. Paul Raslavicus seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

David Allen

Land Use Administrative Assistant