

*New Durham Planning Board  
Public Hearing – Merry Meeting Watershed Overlay District  
January 25, 2017  
Approved*

**NEW DURHAM BUDGET COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING –  
MERRY MEETING WATERSHED OVERLAY DISTRICT  
New Durham Town Hall  
January 25, 2017, 7:00p.m.**

**Present**

Scott Drummey, chairman  
Bob Craycraft  
David Swenson  
Dot Veisel - absent  
Terry Chabot - absent  
Jeff Allard, Alternate

**Also Present:**

Laura Zuzgo, Administrative Assistant  
David Bickford, resident  
Paul Raslavicus, resident  
David Shagoury, resident  
Fred Quimby, resident  
Peter Farrell, forester/Alton resident

**Call to Order**

Chair Drummey called the meeting to order at 7:32p.m. He appointed Mr. Allard to sit on the Board in Ms. Veisel's absence.

**Public Hearing**

Chair Drummey opened the public hearing and stated the purpose of this public hearing is to revisit the watershed district proposal since additional information was received from legal counsel since the last public hearing.

Mr. Allard gave a summary of the three suggested changes in regards to uses, special exceptions and forestry laws. These changes were reviewed and discussed.

**Public Input**

Paul Raslavicus stated he is in support of the recommended changes.

Dave Shagoury, resident, stated part of the watershed is not even in New Durham. Chair Drummey replied the maps do delineate the Town boundaries and it is cut off there. Mr. Shagoury stated he doesn't think they will be able to enforce this plan particularly with regards to subdivision of private property as well as the definitions of rural zoning. There was discussion of how this proposal would work in line with the Master Plan. Mr. Shagoury stated he thinks they are drastically reducing property values. Mr. Allard replied, that open lands can also increase property values.

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David Bickford, resident, stated he is concerned with the constitutionality of the lot sizes and asked for clarification in the Master Plan where this is supported. Mr. Allard replied and gave reference to various court cases relative to lot sizes.

Fred Quimby, resident, asked for clarification about the 12 acres being arbitrary. Mr. Allard replied that is correct. Selectman Swenson gave explanation of the rationale behind the lot sizes.

Peter Farrell, Alton resident, stated he is a forester and has done work for the Town. He explained the responsibilities of landowners with regards to timber and asked if they had considered requiring the consultation with a forester when necessary. Mr. Allard replied it hasn't been specifically addressed. There was discussion of timber harvesting and preservation of the skyline.

Chair Drummey stated they now need to rescind their prior motion as editorial changes have been made at this point.

**Mr. Allard made a motion to make three editorial changes to the Merrymeeting Watershed Overlay District Proposal dated January 4, 2017, the first change in section D: delete the word “landmark” and add at the end of the paragraph “RSA 79-A”; second change in G-1: replace “RSA 485-A:17-4” to “RSA 227”; third change in section I: replace “appeals” with “adjustment.” Mr. Craycraft seconded the motion. Motion passed, 4-0-0.**

Chair Drummey closed the public hearing.

Selectman Swenson stated the wording of the warrant article needs to be addressed and questioned whether there needs to be further action due to the prior action. After discussion, it was agreed to have counsel review the warrant article.

**Selectman Swenson made a motion to appoint the Planning Board Chair to work with legal counsel to approve the wording for the Merrymeeting Watershed Overlay District Proposal warrant article. Mr. Craycraft seconded the motion. Motion passed, 4-0-0.**

Chair Drummey stated the ZBA asked where this would be placed within the Zoning Ordinance. There was discussion and determined it would come after “Shorefront”, Chapter 15.

**Adjourn**

**Selectman Swenson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Craycraft seconded the motion. Motion passed, 4-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary