

Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting
November 25, 2013

6:30 PM Chair Rafter opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Hal Rafter, Mark Carpenter and Mary Bonser

Others: Charles A. Brown – Town Administrator, Dawn Wirkkala – Secretary, Jaye Vilchuck, John Teague, Eduard Viel, Bonnie Patten, Dan Parent, Jim Fernald, Chuck Cosseboom, Peter McGrath, Nick Cricenti, Sandra Vilchuck

Meeting with Rymes and Attorney's:

Mr. McGrath spoke for the applicants and reviewed their opinion of the status of the Rymes installation of propane tanks at the Fernald Lumber site. Mr. McGrath stated it appears there are concerns regarding the fire safety plan, which were thought to be resolved. However, the Town more recently asked the same fire safety questions, and additional questions regarding fire suppression and the gravel road access. The Town does not have any additional or stricter requirements than the Federal requirements, which have been met; Planning and Zoning approval were received. Clarification will be provided during the meeting regarding regulations and requirement questions; the applicants hope that the answers provided will wrap up the outstanding issues in order to move forward. Mr. McGrath requested that a specific list of tasks needing completion be agreed upon during the meeting in order to move the building permit application process forward, if the answers provided during the meeting are not enough.

Chair Rafter stated approval from the Planning and Zoning Boards are site plan approvals only and don't have anything to do with the fire safety plan. Mr. McGrath stated there are no local ordinances or state laws requiring something more; the statutes list exactly what is required for installation of above ground propane tanks. The applicants feel they have answered the Fire Chief's questions before, but are willing to do so again during this meeting.

Chair Rafter stated the Selectmen requested the parties try and expedite resolving the issues about a year ago and based on that discussion the Fire Chief clarified the outstanding concerns providing a list of four items. A new fire safety plan was submitted in January 2013, which needed review by the Fire Safety Engineer.

Mr. Cricenti provided technical information about the installation requirements and testing of propane tanks. The tanks are designed to reduce the amount of risk and prevent explosion, but it doesn't mean something catastrophic can't happen. Installation guidelines are specific and testing of the actual tanks also takes place. The Fire Safety Manual is only in a "Draft" form until the construction is complete, because there are minor things that change during the installation, such as the location of pipes from the left to right side providing better access.

Mr. Cricenti stated electricity is not needed; there are a series of protective measures to quickly allow for automatic shut off during an emergency.

Chief Vilchuck asked about the amount of water needed according to the Fire Safety Analysis, which states minimum water per gallon requirement. Mr. Cricenti stated the fire safety analysis indicates there is a need for water supply and the town would provide the water supply. Ms. Bonser stated the Town does not have public water supplies and asked about where the water would come from if there was to be a fire. Mr. Cricenti stated the fire tanker can provide a specific amount of water, water could come from the river.

Mr. Cricenti stated the report indicates the Town will supply the water source and or mutual aide to supply that water but the specifics of what would actually take place should be included in the Fire Safety Analysis.

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Chief Vilchok asked about the duration of time between a house fire and propane tank fire and how much more of an amount of water will be needed to fight a propane fire. No specific answer was given; it would depend on how quickly crews could respond and what equipment is on fire.

The Selectmen asked what rule indicates the fire safety analysis isn't a requirement to be in a final format before construction. Mr. Cricenti reviewed the statute information, stating the analysis becomes final when construction is complete, and a full set of "as built" plans are included in the analysis. Mr. McGrath stated there is the request to start building with a draft plan.

Mr. Cricenti reviewed that the water recommended in the fire safety analysis is to answer the issue of fire after the propane has burned off; to put out fire on the supporting and surrounding structures around the tank. Propane tanks are not as described as in television or media reports, the systems are designed not to catch on fire.

Discussion took place about the road access and the nearest water sources. Mr. Cosseboom and Mr. Fernald replied the road being used is no different than any other road system being used with other tank installations and the propane tanks are approximately 1000 feet from the paved road with a 25 foot wide road and 16 foot wide bridge. Mr. Cosseboom indicated the North River is available as well as a dry hydrant at the end of the driveway. Chief Vilchok stated the river may not be a viable water source year round and the dry hydrant located at the school would need over two sections of hose over 1000 feet long. Mr. Carpenter stated it puts a requirement on the Fire department to work within the constraints of resources available.

Mr. Fernald stated the offer still stands for installation of a dry hydrant located beyond the bridge near the road. Chief Vilchok requested specific details about the installation of the dry hydrant, including supporting documentation for an adequate water supply on a year round basis, information that would be included in the fire safety analysis. Mr. Fernald stated the specifics for what is needed can be planned; this dry hydrant can also be a secondary dry hydrant for the school if theirs ever failed. Mr. McGrath asked if the hydrant was sufficient does it resolve the water supply issue. There was agreement it could and the location of the proposed dry hydrant was included on the map.

Chair Rafter asked about the emergency response plan. Discussion took place about the emergency plan, including the first responders, secondary responders and duties of each. Mr. McGrath stated the plan will include a list of names and their emergency duties, and will include training for the local fire department on plant operations and safety. It was stated the drivers are required to have safety training as part of their driving certification. Chief Vilchok asked for the town to understand the responsibility of Rymes personnel in addition to Town personnel.

Chair Rafter stated the Town is looking for a written response addressing the concerns of the chief. Mr. Carpenter stated there must be a mid point that Mr. Fernald and Rymes and Chief Vilchok can meet at to make sure that all parties are comfortable with the installation of the tanks. Mr. Fernald stated he believes the Fire Marshall's office appears to have given multiple differing opinions regarding the installation process, depending on who they talked to.

After discussion it was decided Mr. Cricenti and Chief Vilchok would meet with the Fire Marshall to review and receive one answer regarding some of the issues and to answer the questions and concerns.

Mr. Cosseboom stated Rymes is willing to offer one buried tank as an alternative to the two above ground tanks, as a possible middle ground offer. The underground tank is a tank mounded with dirt and would be an alternative to the dry hydrant.

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The Selectmen thanked Mr. Cosseboom for offering the alternatives and additions. It was stated the offer of an alternate tank style would require going back to the Planning and Zoning Boards for approval.

The Selectmen suggested continuing with the current dual tank proposal as written, acknowledging the offer for mounded tanks as an alternative. The Chief and Mr. Cricenti will meet with the Fire Marshall to review the requirements for the fire safety analysis. Mr. Cricenti and Rymes would provide answers and supplemental information to the Fire Safety Analysis within one week or shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday. Chief Vilchuck would contact the Fire Safety Engineer to determine if he would be able to complete a review of the Fire Safety Analysis.

The Selectmen suggested meeting the parties on December 16th to review the status and discuss the Fire Marshall meeting results.

Chief Vilchuck stated he would seek a meeting with the Fire Marshall on December 6th or 13th.

Highway Sander Bid Request: Mr. Brown stated one reasonable bid was received and asked the Selectmen permission to sell the sander.

Motion: by Ms. Bonser, second Mr. Carpenter by to accept the bid for the Highway 6-yard sander from Mr. Scott Barry in the amount of \$2,201.00

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

8:25 PM **Motion:** by Mr. Carpenter, second by Ms. Bonser to adjourn.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Wirkkala