

Sutton Planning Board
Minutes
April 9, 2012

Present: W. Whittier, R. Largess, D. Moroney, T. Connors, J. Anderson
Staff: J. Hager, Planning Director

General Business:

Minutes of 4/2: None

Form A Plans:

Cronin:

Motion: To allow the Chairman to endorse the Form A plan for Cronin dated 4/3/12 showing two new buildable lots, one potential retreat lot and one non-buildable backland lot,

T. Connors

2nd:

W. Whittier

The Planning Director noted this plan will facilitate a transfer of the backland to the Worcester Land Trust and eventual transfer to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife who owns the abutting extensive Stockwell Pond System. She confirmed she spoke with Colin Novak from the land trust to confirm they approve the current plan and are certain DF&W will as well.

Vote: 3-0-2, J. Anderson and D. Moroney abstain as abutters

Correspondence/Other:

Filing - Airsoft Outdoor Playing Field – 100 Worcester Providence Turnpike: The Board acknowledged the legal filing of this application.

Public Hearing – Public Shade Tree Law – 16 & 22 Jared Drive

R. Largess read the hearing notice as it appeared in The Chronicle.

Dana Mercure was present to ask the Board if he could relocate three trees in the right of way in front of his home. He noted there is an oak tree in front of his home that as it grows will obscure the front of his house, there is sycamore tree near the stop sign that will obscure the stop sign and there is a pear tree that will conflict with planned landscaping on the other side of his home. He wants to move the oak off his property, move the pear to the ROW on the other side of his home and move the sycamore to the ROW next to his driveway. The other applicant, Corey Litchfield stated there is an undersized sycamore adjacent to electrical transformers in the ROW at the edge of his yard that until recently he thought was dead, he wants to remove this tree and replace it with whatever larger healthier tree the Town might allow.

Tree Warden Joseph Camarra was present. He noted there are several dead trees in the subdivision that went in late last fall that the developer should replace. He stated the sycamore in Mr. Litchfield's yard is not dead. He also noted that half of the trees the developer planted are either ornamental or pears which are street trees that do well along a street, but are not shade trees. Ideally, he stated the developer should have worked with existing homeowners to place the trees in agreed to locations, but the trees do create a nice uniform appearance throughout the neighborhood. He did not have any objection to moving trees as long as the resident guarantees they will be replaced if they die.

Abutter, Nicole Patterson objected to moving the trees, noting the tree at the stop sign will provide shade as kids catch the bus there and moving it toward the driveway will block the stop sign over time. She stressed that professionals planted the trees and they create a sense of uniformity that should not be disrupted. She also noted the full rows of pears Mr. Mercure wants to plant will not look uniform with the rest of the neighborhood. Mr. Mercure noted he offered to plant these trees in the Towns ROW to more than replace the number of trees he wants to relocate but he will plant them outside the Row if the Board prefers. It was noted the Town has more trees than it can take care of now and the preference will be to plant them on his property. He can plant whatever he wants, wherever he wants on his property.

The Board wanted the input of the Highway Superintendent with respect to visibility of the stop sign and street trees in general.

Motion: To continue the hearing to April 23, 2012 at 7:30 PM, D. Moroney
2nd: T. Connors
Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: To Adjourn, D. Moroney
2nd: T. Connors
Vote: 5-0-0

Adjourned 7:54 PM