

AMHERST PLANNING BOARD

MINUTES

8-3-2016

Attending: Arnie Rosenblatt, Chair, Cliff Harris, Sally Wilkins, Alternate Marilyn Peterman, Gordon Leedy, Selectman's Representative Peter Lyon, Conservation Commission Representative Rich Hart. Eric Hahn stepped down for the entire hearing, joining Bruce Berry in representing the Department of Public Works. Chair called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Gordon moved to untable the Scenic Road Hearing for Pond Parish Road. Cliff seconded. All in favor.

Arnie reviewed the history of the application, tabled twice in July, and the Board walked the site with Bruce last Tuesday to consider Peter's proposal of a compromise which would approve removal of all dead and diseased trees, and trees within 30" of the edge of pavement. The walk was very helpful, Arnie thanked Bruce for accommodating the Board's request.

Since there was no need for further presentation, Arnie asked if there were comments or questions from the Board.

Gordon appreciated the thoughtfulness of Bruce's approach and his efforts. He believes the revised marking is reasonable.

Arnie asked if there were comments or questions from abutters and interested parties. Robin Nahill, 4 Lynch Farm Road, appreciated everyone's efforts. She asked if the "question mark" trees were resolved. Brief discussion: these were trees about which Bruce had uncertainty regarding their condition. Three were resolved on the walk and found to be suitable to remain. Three others we had hoped Lee Gilman (an arborist who is a member of ACC) might look at. Rich explained that did not happen.

Marilyn asked what is the difference in impact between the original plan and the revised one? The original plan recommended the removal of 75 trees, this one only removes 62. Arnie clarified that the 62 is not completely a subset of the 75, it is some of the original 75 plus some others in the diseased-or-dead category that had not been marked previously.

Peter asked if there was any further input from the DPW? Eric explained that he and Bruce had gone out and reviewed the whole road again today. They had three trees of the 6 "question marks" they would like to ask the board to approve:

7+50 is a leaning pine that also has a distinct wound. There is an established oak directly behind it (and behind the stone wall) which they believe will fill in the gap when the pine is removed.

30+53 is 53" from the edge of pavement, but the shoulder of the road rises up to the tree, once they cut into that to create the sheet drainage it will damage the roots.

47+58 is 37" from the edge of pavement, leaning almost 5' out over the road. The root structure is already under stress and they are concerned that the construction will kill it.

There was a brief discussion of each of the three trees.

Gordon moved and Cliff seconded to close the public hearing. All in favor.

46 **Gordon moved and Marilyn seconded to approve the revised request, , for a total of 66 trees to be removed,**
47 **all dead-and-diseased and/or within 30” of the edge of pavement plus the three trees just discussed.**
48 **Approved 5 in favor 1 (Wilkins) opposed.**
49

50 Marilyn Shaughnessy, 51 Pond Parish Road, asked when the work would begin. Arnie suggested she confer with
51 Bruce Berry.

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53 Minutes:

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55 June 1, 2016: Line 98, change “seconded” to “accepted.”
56 Line 120 change “transfer” to “transformer.”
57 Line 266 change “a conservation commission placard” to “conservation commission
58 placards”
59

60 Sally suggested that, in the future, when Staff recommendations are incorporated as conditions of approval,
61 they should not be simply pasted in but should be restated as simple “to do” items. General discussion and
62 agreement, but Arnie observed that this is beyond the purview of the scrivener and should be done either by
63 the Board or by the Director or other professional.

64 **Gordon moved to approve the minutes of 6/1 as revised. Cliff seconded. All in favor, Marilyn**
65 **abstaining**
66

67 July 6, 2016 Line 144: add “in file.” (assuming that the document is in fact in the file).
68 Line 176 change “the signage issue” to “the question of scenic road signs”

69 **Cliff moved to approve the minutes of 7/6 as revised. Peter seconded. All in favor, Gordon and Sally**
70 **abstaining.**
71

72 July 20, 2016 No changes.

73 **Peter moved to approve the minutes of 7/20. Gordon seconded. All in favor, Gordon, Cliff and Marilyn**
74 **abstaining.**
75

76 Marilyn observed that she is uncomfortable just assuming that it is okay for Eric to continue to sit on the Board
77 as discussed at the meeting of July 20. She would prefer to get an opinion from Town Counsel. Arnie will call Bill.

78
79 **Cliff moved to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Peter seconded. All in favor.**