

AMHERST PLANNING BOARD
Wednesday January 18, 2017
Work Session

In attendance were Sally Wilkins, Mike Dell Orfano, Richard Hart, Eric Hahn, Clifford Harris & Community Development Director Gordon Leedy. Peter Lyon arrived at 8:10 pm.

Acting Chair Sally Wilkins called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

C. Harris moved, M. Dell Orfano 2nd to open the public hearing. S. Wilkins read the public hearing notice into the record.

Public Hearing:

Scenic Road Public Hearing – Town of Amherst, Department of Public Works – Bruce Berry
Scenic Road Public Hearing for road construction and tree removal on Ponemah Hill Road (from Route 122 to Milford Town Line) & Mack Hill Road (from Manchester Road to Dodge Road) in accordance with NH RSA 231:158

DPW Superintendent stated that he was looking for feedback from the Planning Board and made a presentation for the proposed road construction and tree removal. He said that he will be meeting with the Town Administrator and the Historic District.

Mack Hill Road:

B. Berry stated that there are drainage issues in that area from Mack Hill Road from the bridge to Jones/Dodge Road and Pennichuck Water wants to extend the water main. B. Berry stated that work will probably occur in the Fall timeframe. He said that it was necessary to install sidewalks and granite curbing to accommodate drainage issues on the hill which is experiencing erosion now with potential for more when area is disturbed. He said that no tree removal is being proposed.

Ponemah Hill Road:

B. Berry stated that he is proposing to remove 15 trees (all marked) – 11 are healthy, 1 is dead and 3 are damaged on Pomehah Hill Road. He also reported that the culverts need replacing, underdrain needs replacing and this requires a DES wetland permit. He said that some trees were hit by snow plows.

S. Wilkins asked what species are the 11 healthy trees, i.e. ash, maple, oaks? She stated that it would be a shame to take healthy trees.

R. Hart stated that he is in favor of the sidewalk on this section of Mack Hill. B. Berry proposed 22' wide pavement with 2 ½% crown and curbing on both sides. B. Berry stated that he would prefer to use cobblestone, however, it was not cost effective.

M. Dell Orfano asked where the drainage will discharge. B. Berry indicated that the drainage will go to Beaver Brook. M. Dell Orfano asked about limits on salt. B. Berry said that the town limits salt everywhere by using 50/50 salt & sand.

C. Harris stated that he also supports a sidewalk on Mack Hill Road. He also supports improving sight distance on Ponemah Hill Road. S. Wilkins expressed concern about stone walls on Ponemah Hill Road. B. Berry indicated that part of the construction contract "requires no damage to stone walls".

Andy Ouilette stated that he is not terribly concerned with trees and but wants to pay attention to stone walls. He asked about a bike lane on Mack Hill Road.

Will Ludt, 3 School Street asked what side of the street would have the sidewalk.

B. Berry replied that it would be the east side because the west side would require removal of trees. Mr. Ludt stated that he supports sensitivity to the historic features and the stone walls.

S. Wilkins stated that cobblestones have no historical place in Amherst and were never used. B. Berry stated that he would like to do away with the wheel ruts present that cause water to stay on the road. He said he tries very hard to eliminate or prevent water draining to private property.

Andy Ouilette asked about the reconstruction of the stone walls. B. Berry indicated that the contractor has a stone mason crew available that they use.

Amherst Fire Rescue – Building Construction – Chief Matthew Conley

Chief Conley presented the proposed building construction to the Fire Rescue facility. Acting Chair S. Wilkins stated that the Planning Board is only concerned with exterior changes to the building. She asked about the increase in septic. Chief Conley indicated that these issues have been examined and adequate capacity is in place.

R. Hart questioned whether there will be an increase in meeting space/building occupancy. Chief Conley said that expansion will be for living space, not increased occupancy.

General discussion occurred of the road/driveway standards. Chief Conley indicated that each situation is different and said that the system he has in place is working.

Minutes

M. Dell Orfano moved to accept the minutes of January 4, 2017 as amended, C. Harris 2nd. VOTE: All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Gordon Leedy