

**AMHERST PLANNING BOARD**  
**Wednesday September 5, 2018**

In attendance: P. Lyon-Selectman Ex-Officio, A. Rosenblatt, M. Peterman, M. Dell Orfano-Chair, C Harris, S. Wilkins, E. Hahn, R. Hart and Community Development Director G. Leedy

M. Dell Orfano called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. SCENIC ROAD PUBLIC HEARING – In accordance with NH RSA 231:158, the Amherst Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 6, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Barbara Landry Meeting Room, 2nd floor, Amherst Town Hall, 2 Main Street, Amherst, NH for tree removal for a utility extension on County Road, Amherst, New Hampshire.**

**M. Peterman moved and A. Rosenblatt seconded to open the public hearing. All in favor**

Rick Sullivan- arborist for Eversource explained they need to add a 500-foot extension off County Rd to provide service to the property owners in that area. They will be removing trees and putting in three new poles. He described the location. There are 39 trees within the town right of way and an extra 6 trees outside the town right of way that need to come down.

R. Hart asked of the trees not in town right of way: are they on private land and has he asked permission to take them down? Not yet- he will do so after this meeting. Most are on the properties of the homeowners that will benefit from this project.

E. Hahn re-counted and found 19 trees in and 26 trees out of the right of way.

Mr. Sullivan agreed with E. Hahn regarding the number of trees in and out of the right of way.

E. Hahn asked, where do the lines transition to underground? They will be overhead along County road and then go underground.

C. Harris asked how low the trees will be cut- will there be stumps? He doesn't want stumps. He asked to please cut all the way down to the soil.

Mr. Sullivan stated the current regulations are for 3" stumps, but they've asked their contractor to cut as low as possible. Normally they leave the wood for a while and local people will pick up what they want. Then they will come by with a log truck to get the rest.

S. Wilkins warned the public that the trees belong to the owners of the house they are in front of. Before taking any wood away, please ask the homeowners at that location.

**Public Comment**

1. Amy Muscott-48 Country Rd asked to see a map showing the area in question.

Discussion ensued regarding where the work will be done

2. Joan Kunkel-45 County Rd asked for clarification why trees would be cut down on the private side of the stone wall. She also asked if County Rd has any plans in the works for becoming paved.

Mr. Sullivan clarified the lines need 8' of clearance on either side of the lines. That's why trees need to come down on the other side of the stone wall.

The board stated they have no knowledge of County Rd becoming paved.

A. Rosenblatt commented that at past hearings there have been photos of the trees to view.

M. Peterman suggested to Mr. Sullivan that next time he should provide a better map and photos of the trees along the road so abutters know where the work will be done.

Maps were shown to the public in attendance.

**M. Peterman moved and C. Harris seconded to close the public hearing. All in favor with P. Lyon abstaining**

S. Wilkins would like more information and would like to table the hearing. A site walk might be necessary. She wondered if the lines could go underground sooner and have more of the work on the individual properties rather than the public way.

G. Leedy stated undergrounding was discussed but is more difficult on a dirt road. If the site walk could occur this week, the hearing could be tabled to the next meeting in September.

**S. Wilkins moved to table the hearing to September 19 and to schedule a site walk in the meantime. At the next hearing the applicant should provide a map and photos. M. Peterman seconded.**

E. Hahn wondered about the consequences of burying the lines if future development extends beyond the proposed line extension.

**Vote: all in favor with P. Lyon abstaining.**

The board discussed scheduling a site walk and determined Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm.

## **2. PUBLIC HEARING – Review and adopt the 2020-2025 Capital Improvement Program**

G. Leedy explained the statute doesn't require planning board adoption of the CIP but it requires the creation of the document.

G. Leedy gave a synopsis: a committee was formed; presentations were given by department heads as well as the school districts for project requests; all projects were put in a spreadsheet that shows the tax impact.

It's a good system that forces us to look at what's coming and plan for it.

M. Peterman asked if there are any carry-overs from past CIP? What did the previous plan say and how far have we come with those projects? G. Leedy stated yes, the last one was 2 years ago and some of those projects are done. If there's money, we try to complete projects ahead of time if possible.

S. Wilkins gave some project examples.

Discussion ensued regarding how the additional tax amounts are added. Some clarifications need to be made to the spreadsheet.

R. Hart mentioned net zero power management is missing from the plan. Many towns are moving to that. G. Leedy said it's not in the scope of this document. This document is not policy.

Stephanie Grund-Business Administrator for SAU 39 addressed a concern. Regarding Wilkins school- no decisions have been made. All options are still being researched. Money will not be spent if the building is going to come down.

S. Wilkins noted this is the only board or committee where all of the departments of Town come together to plan.

97 G. Leedy will edit the spreadsheet to clarify wording.  
98  
99 **M. Peterman moved to table the discussion to September 19<sup>th</sup>. S. Wilkins seconded. All in favor**  
100  
101 **OTHER BUSINESS:**  
102 **2. Minutes**  
103 **Minutes: August 15, 2018**  
104 Line 32 which may be open to the public.  
105 Line 67 28 acres. They are not planning...  
106  
107 **A. Rosenblatt moved to approve the minutes of August 15<sup>th</sup> as amended. C. Harris seconded. All in**  
108 **favor with M. Peterman abstaining.**  
109  
110 G. Leedy suggested to the board for the next meeting, look at previous master plans and bring ideas for  
111 what we want to focus on for the next master plan.  
112  
113 **P. Lyon moved to adjourn at 8:51pm. S. Wilkins seconded. All in favor**  
114  
115 Respectfully submitted,  
116 Jessica Marchant