

**AMHERST PLANNING BOARD**  
**Wednesday September 19, 2018**

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

S. Wilkins called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

**OLD 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. *Continued from September 5, 2018***

E. Hahn stepped down from the board for this agenda item.

**C. Harris moved, and R. Hart seconded to open the public hearing. All in favor**

S. Wilkins explained that another option had been addressed since we last met. It would require poles on either side of the street, so the wires could crisscross down that path. However, an easement would be required to install a guy wire onto private property and that property owner has refused the easement.

S. Wilkins expressed she is strongly against cutting all of these trees and has never heard of needing an easement for a guy wire.

Rick Sullivan- arborist for Eversource explained that the tree clearing may be able to be reduced from what was originally submitted. He won't know for sure until the poles are placed, but after walking the site he believes not all 19 trees in the public way need to be cut and some could just be trimmed. Also, some on the list are very small: 4"-6" diameter.

S. Wilkins stated typically non-jurisdictional trees are not submitted by the applicant.

A. Rosenblatt asked, and discussion ensued as to if there are other options to the guy wire, though they may cost more.

Mr. Sullivan presented pictures and explained the sizes of the trees and described which trees could be left standing.

**Public Comment**

Dave Williams- 56 County Rd wondered who approached the abutter about gaining an easement and how was he approached? Does he fully understand the project and the implications of his decision?

John Ferrar was the contact from Eversource to the abutter. No further information about the meeting was known.

**A. Rosenblatt moved, and C. Harris seconded to close the public hearing. All in favor**

After clarifying the number and size of trees coming down and staying up, P. Lyon stated he was comfortable approving the request. The board clarified that the requirement is to include in applications any trees over 15" circumference, not DBH.

**A. Rosenblatt moved to approve the application. C. Harris seconded. A. Rosenblatt amended the motion to suggest that Eversource make a good faith effort to consider alternatives to the layout and have another discussion with the abutting land owner regarding the guy wire. C. Harris seconded the amended motion. Vote: 4-0 in favor with S. Wilkins abstaining.**

**2. PUBLIC HEARING – Review and adopt the 2020-2025 Capital Improvement Program**  
***Continued from September 5, 2018***

S. Wilkins removed the item from the table.

G. Leedy presented the revised Capital Improvement estimated tax impact table. He highlighted the language changes that were made since the last meeting.

**A. Rosenblatt moved to accept the CIP as presented by the CIP committee and revised by the Community Development Director. P. Lyon seconded. All in favor**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**4. Master Plan**

G. Leedy stated some items in the document will need to be discussed with the community. He asked the board to consider which issues they believe are the key issues to address. Discussion occurred as to what they are looking to get out of the process.

R. Hart suggested it helps set goals for the future that can be compared to zoning regulations for possible amending if needed.

S. Wilkins and G. Leedy suggested it gives a plan for implementation along with accountability for each item as well as timing goals. It helps with economic development and zoning.

S. Wilkins suggested the board go through past plans section by section at a board meeting to note which sections are good and which need to be addressed. The October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was suggested as a work session for this item.

**3. Minutes**

**Minutes: September 5, 2018**

Line 26 E. Hahn asked, where do the lines transition to underground?

Line 95 only board or committee where all of the departments of Town come together to plan.

**A. Rosenblatt moved to approve the minutes of September 5<sup>th</sup> as amended. C. Harris seconded. All in favor**

**P. Lyon moved to adjourn at 8:51pm. C. Harris seconded. All in favor**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Marchant