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MINUTES – Rowe Planning Board

28 August 2009

Present: Jo-ann Brown, Robert Dykeman, Angela Foshay, Ellynn Packard, David Roberson

Audience: [included Ann Besgen, Jack Williams, Betty Lenth, Dave Lenth, Ellen Babcock Miller, Paul McClatchey, Danette Reynolds, Kris Swenson, Jack Packard]

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m.

Chairman David Roberson explained that the meeting had been called by Ellynn Packard and thus no agenda had been prepared. He passed out copies of emails sent by Ms. Packard and outlined the issue of an Energy Committee submission to the Goal Post that he felt contained persuasive language in violation of the Editorial Policy of the Goal Post (which the Planning Board had adopted in 2007). Mr. Roberson explained that several other individuals, including Ms. Packard, also felt that some of the language was inappropriate for publication and that his intention was to discuss this matter with the Planning Board at its next regular meeting. Ms. Packard had felt that publication of the article should not be delayed and that Mr. Roberson should edit the article. Mr. Roberson explained that he did not think it was appropriate for him to edit the content of the article, but instead he spoke with Energy Committee Chairman Jack Packard, who rewrote the article in a way that Mr. Roberson felt was suitable for publication. Subsequent to this, Jack Packard had left a message on Mr. Roberson's answering machine where he expressed his opinion that the revised article was a significant improvement on the original submission.

There was discussion among the Planning Board and members of the audience concerning the Goal Post editorial policy, the Planning Board's oversight of the Goal Post, and the process for vetting submissions to the Goal Post. Ms. Packard expressed that in her opinion it was inappropriate for the Planning Board to be overseeing the Goal Post and she alleged that conflicts of interest existed which she felt should preclude her own or Mr. Roberson's involvement in the Goal Post. Mr. Roberson denied that he had any such conflict of interest. Ellen Babcock Miller stated that in her opinion the inclusion of advertisements in the Goal Post was prohibited. Mr. Roberson will ask the Planning Board's attorney for her opinion on this issue.

Ms. Packard moved that the supervision and administration of the Goal Post be transferred to the Selectmen, with the recommendation that they appoint a committee to supervise the Goal Post. The motion died for lack of a second.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47.

Respectfully submitted,

David Roberson, Chairman

Robert L. Dykeman
Jo-ann M. Brown
Angela Foshay