Approved 29 November 2017

Planning Board Meeting Minutes August 30, 2017

The meeting of the Planning Board (PB) was called to order at 7:12 pm on August 30, 2017 by the Chairman, David Roberson. Also present were members Dan Burke, Jodi Brown, & Doug Wilson, scribe, and guest William Reardon, of Northeast Arms, who lives at 146 Cyrus Stage Road. Russ Jolly and Jenn Morse were also present. Robin Reed, member, arrived at 7:17.

The business of William Reardon was taken first. William Reardon was brought to David Roberson's attention by Timothy C. Gahm, the ATF agent in charge of approving the new license and the change of address. Mr. Gahm wanted to make sure that there were no local zoning restrictions, so David invited Bill Reardon to come to the meeting. In 2006 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created a ruling that you can't have a firearms dealership in a house. As a result, Mr. Reardon had to build a wall between his home and his gun dealership, and eventually he got a separate address for the dealership, at 148 Cyrus Stage Road. Prior to our meeting, David discussed this matter with our attorney, Donna MacNicol, and he drafted a memo, which he read out loud. David's memo, in response to the ATF agent's communication, is attached to these minutes. It says that Mr. Reardon doesn't need a Special Permit because his business falls within the "customary home occupation" category in our bylaws. David moved that the Planning Board accept the memo he had written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The next order of business was brought by Russ Jolly, who came to the meeting to talk about fiber optic and tree cutting matters. Russ is currently the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Deputy Manager and and David Dvore is the Manager of the MLP. Because David Dvore is in Thailand for several weeks, Russ has become the main contact for the fiber optic matters while David Dvore is away.

David Roberson has studied the rules and regulations for scenic roads and public shade trees of other towns and found those of Hingham to be relevant for our town. After discussing this with Ms. MacNicol, David shortened Hingham's rules to adapt them for Rowe. If we vote for this, it will become part of our rules. David moved that the Planning Board adopt these rules and the motion as passed by a vote of 5-0.

We then moved to the proposed tree cutting on Davis Mine Road. Lance Larned, the Tree Warden, joined the hearing. Russ addressed the issue of cutting trees to install poles to carry the fiber optic cables on Davis Mine Road. Russ said that the town of Rowe has made a commitment to include all the houses that are on town roads with fiber optic cable, but there are no telephone poles on much of Davis Mine Road. David Dvore, Russ, and Lance want to install 29 poles along Davis Mine Road, using 35 foot poles. They placed stakes where they propose to put the poles, which are designed to minimize the trees that will be affected, using a system that moves back and forth across the road. The tree cutting would need to be approved by the PB and the tree warden. Russ left at 8:30.

The board approved minutes for the May 10 Public Hearing Minutes, with certain changes, and unanimously approved the May 10 Planning Board Minutes. The board approved the May 17 Public Hearing Minutes and the minutes for the May 17 Planning Board meeting that followed the hearing. The board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 14th meeting. David moved that we approve the minutes of the July 26 meeting with some minor changes and that motion was passed unanimously.

There was a meeting of the town By-Law revision commission on August 16th that was attended by David and Dan. This committee has agreed to leave the Zoning By-Laws to the Planning Board.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 20th at 7 pm. We discussed whether Dan could attend, using a phone line, if he was in Houston, doing his job, but no decision was made on that. David agreed to research the matter further and report to the PB.