Approved as written on 24 JAN 2018
For: Joanna M. Brown
Douglas Wilson

Joint Tree Hearings of the Rowe Planning Board and Tree Warden on November 29, 2017

The Planning Board meeting and joint tree hearing was called to order at 7:05 by Planning Board Chairman David Roberson with Lance Larned, Tree Warden. Also in attendance were Planning Board (PB) members Jodi Brown, Robin Reed, Dan Burke, and Douglas Wilson, scribe. Also present were Jean-Claude van Itallie, Deb Katz, Richard Quinn, Earl and Myra Carlow, Daniel and Claudine Poplawlski, Dan Wessman, Peter Columbo, Mitch Soviecke, Susan Zavotka, Walt Quist, Bob Rice, Fred Lowell, Maggie Rice, David Dvore, Cindy Laffond and Sean Loomis; Chuck Sokol arrived later and there may have been others at times in the back of the room.

Sean Loomis, Park Ranger, spoke about how a state engineer had examined the trees near the dam and said that many of them had to be removed for the safety of the dam. 30 trees are marked to be cut, within 95 feet on the west side and 145 feet to the east side above the dam, and a few below the dam. Sean said this had been suggested five years ago, but it was not acted upon. David asked about vegetation management after the trees were cut and Sean said the suckers that spring up would need to be manually cut back until the tree trunks die, which can take several years. The Park Commission will be in control of the work, which will probably be put out to bid. David moved that the permit be granted, with no conditions. This was seconded and passed unanimously by the PB. Lance Larned also said he supported this. A memo was drafted, signed by David and Lance, photocopied and distributed. The hearing was adjourned at 7:30 and David said the next Public Hearing would begin at 7:45.

At 7:45 the second tree hearing was called to order by David Roberson with Lance Larned. David Dvore, the head of the town Municipal Light Plant (MLP) talked about what was happening with the goal of installing fiber optic cable to every house in the town. There are no telephone poles on much of Davis Mine Road, so this proposal was about installing the poles on the area where there are none. David Roberson said the Planning Board's authority is with the cutting of the trees, not the poles or wire installations, which are under the authority of the Board of Selectmen. David Dvore said the Selectmen had approved installing the poles and wires earlier that evening at their hearing. There were no objections from the many people in the audience, and David noted that it appeared the Planning Board and Tree Warden were inclined to approve the proposal. Discussion of possible conditions followed, and David moved that permission be granted subjected to the conditions that the work be finished within one year, that the cutting be done between 7am and 5pm, that no trees will be topped, that no stumps would be left higher then ten inches, and that what happened to the chips and the logs will be subject to the authority of the selectmen. This was moved and seconded and it was passed unanimously by the Planning Board, with Lance Larned also giving his approval. A record of decision was drafted and printed, signed by David and Lance, photocopied and distributed. The hearing was closed at 8:06

Attachments:

- Record of decision for Joint Tree Hearing for cutting trees at Pelham Lake dam
- Record of decision for Joint Tree Hearing for cutting trees on Davis Mine Road