

Planning Board Minutes 4/16/2015

Members Present: Steve Ferguson, Chair, Dan Girard, Mike Kane, Robert Malone and Carlene Millett. Members Absent: Gisela Walker. Also present was Peg Dean, Town Administrator

7:03 P.M. Meeting called to order by Chair, Steve Ferguson.

There were no minutes received from the last meeting.

Town Administrator Peg Dean attended the meeting to discuss putting up Charlemont signs to replace the ones damaged by hurricane Irene. Peg explained that the Greater Shelburne Falls Business Association would assist with funding if we promote tourism by stating Mohawk Trail on the sign. Peg explained that she has spoken to property owners for permission to place the signs. It was discussed that an up to 8'x8' sign is allowed on private property per the bylaws, but that a 4'x4' may be better. Discussion ensued as to whether the sign would be grandfathered as there were signs there previously but it was unclear if a permit was ever granted for these. It was the sentiment of the Board that because the signs would be placed outside the Village Center District, a Special Permit should be applied for. Discussion ensued as to design and maintenance of the signs and the possibility of the Town being exempt from a Special Permit. Carlene will check on this. Peg will follow up with Carlene regarding the filing of a Special Permit, if needed.

The issue of town-maintained roads was discussed. Steve noted that he would send members a link to a website which stated the roads the Town is reimbursed for by the State on our Cherry Sheets. It was suggested that Gordon could be asked for a list of roads he maintains so we would at least know which roads were maintained by the town when asked.

Discussion turned to the letter to the Select Board and safety departments asking them what they would like to see regarding road standards. Steve noted that he has historically not received a good response from writing letters and perhaps it would be best to ask these departments to come to a Planning Board meeting to weigh in on the issue.

Carlene stated she was asked about the build-ability of a property on Riddell Road that was land-locked. A review of the deed showed that a right of way was granted over property of an abutter to this one, and that the ROW was to be established by the grantee within a year. Nothing was found filed in the Registry of Deeds relative to this, however. The Board all agreed that the land could not be buildable without frontage on a public way or documentation on the ROW.

It was noted that Pat Smith, of FRCOG would be coming on June 4th to assist them with the bylaw amendments.

The pros and cons of the WiredWest broadband proposal were discussed, with some members being hesitant to support it due to some of the unknowns of the proposal. On a motion by Girard and seconded by Kane, the Board voted unanimously to table support for the proposal until more information was received. The Board will check on when the next WiredWest meeting will be.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carlene Millett

Documents Viewed in Meeting of 4/16/15

1. Email regarding question on land-locked land.
2. Deeds for property on Riddell Road.
3. Documents/handouts regarding WiredWest broadband proposal.