

Minutes approved as amended 5-0 on December 16, 2015.

Planning Board Minutes  
Ashfield Town Hall  
December 2, 2015

Present: Michael Fitzgerald (MF), chair  
Ken Miller (KM)  
Lauren Preston-Wells (LPW)  
Alan Rice (AR)  
Jim Cutler (JC)  
Meghan Bowen (MB), scribe

Absent:

Guests:

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

1. Board reviewed mail.
2. Board reviewed minutes from October 27, 2015. AR moves to accept minutes as amended, JC seconded. All in favor, 5-0, motion carried.
3. Board discussed letters to Eversource and the Select Board from John Angelman (JA) regarding work on Smith Road, which has been designated as a Scenic Road.
  - JA's letter requested that the Select Board order Eversource to cease activity due to violations of the Town's Scenic Roads bylaws. MF said that the bylaw regarding Smith Road in Ashfield only prohibits cutting down trees 14 inches or greater in diameter, (measured 1 foot above the ground,) and moving or disturbing stone walls. Therefore, if Eversource carries out its work without without violating either of those prohibitions, then the bylaw is not applicable.
  - MF said that the Select Board must check with the Planning Board before working on a Scenic Road such as Smith Road if they intend to affect any trees or walls, but they have not. MF said it was possible that the work was approved under emergency conditions, for which the Select Board might not need the Planning Board's consent.
  - Letters from both Eversource and JA say that each has spoken with the Planning Board, which no member of the board can verify.
  - Regarding Eversource's intentions to build access roads, LPW asked whether an access road would impinge upon the town's character. MF said we cannot deny access to property.
  - AR asked how the Board is involved in this issue. MF said that the Board may become involved if someone applies for a permit for removal of large trees or stone walls.
  - AR suggested that the Board contact the building commissioner. MB will send a copy of

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the letter to Jim Hawkins before the next meeting. MF will contact Tom Carter for more information from the Select Board.

4. JC received a letter from a lawyer in NY state, Charles Sullivan (CS), who is interested in developing bylaws pertaining to the effects of blasting on groundwater for towns along the proposed route of the Kinder Morgan pipeline. JC will forward the letter to the Board and to Fire Chief Del Haskins, who has jurisdiction over blasting in the Town.
5. MF reported that he had been contacted by a lawyer regarding a marijuana dispensary in the Town. MF called the lawyer back and left a message, but has not been contacted again.
6. Board discussed the next meeting's agenda.
7. AR moved to adjourn the meeting, LPW seconded. All in favor, 5-0, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meghan Bowen