

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PLANNING BOARD
December 2, 2015
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: Ted Sartell, Camilla Lockwood, Allan Pickman, George Willard, and Tedd Petro

Call to order by Pickman at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Petro to approve the minutes of 11/18/15 as written, second by Sartell, and so voted.

Appointment: Resident Rob Wills came in to speak to the board about installing a solar array at his home. He said the resulting power would be sufficient to supply energy for his entire home, as well as providing a surplus to allow participation in net metering (transferring power back into the grid to help offset energy costs). Wills provided paperwork for board members to review. The footprint of the array would be approximately 75' long by 10' wide with a height of 8', and panels would be ground mounted east/west, parallel to the road, and facing south. Wills answered a few questions about glare and trees, and was reminded of the 35' setback. Pickman said the current zoning regulations do not specifically address solar installations. He continued that this instance would appear to be an auxiliary use to a residence and not a commercial use, and as such would not fall under the purview of the planning board. He urged Wills to utilize the Building Permit process through the Selectmen's office. Lockwood stated the Planning Board could indeed have jurisdiction over this type of installation, referencing Zoning Ordinance Section 13: Industry, Commercial and Non Commercial Enterprises. After further discussion, Pickman stated that Wills had come before the board as a courtesy, and the Selectmen might send him back, or to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. He said he felt the array would be consistent with the intent of zoning, and should be considered an allowed use. Wills thanked the board for its time, and indicated he would be willing to work with them to develop a model ordinance on solar power.

Noise Ordinance: Resident Bill Letendre provided background information to the board about his work as an engineer, and said he had reviewed the town's draft noise ordinance. He then took sound measurements at different locations around town to determine if the baseline figures are appropriate. He said there was wind noise and that open spaces were noisier, with measurements near 50dB at Sartell farm and Salisbury farm. The noisiest location measured was near the intersection of Route 45 and 101. He said he also measured near the Connolly farm and Pony (Touchstone) farm, Ben's Sugar Shack, and the store. Letendre concluded the baseline figures are appropriate and in line. He noted the ordinance being proposed specifies the town government can restrict development if the noise level exceeds 10dB above the baseline. He offered to make a sound recording in Temple, and also at a compressor station, and then balance them at 10dB apart and play at town meeting. Pickman explained the vote on the noise ordinance would occur as a ballot vote on the Tuesday before town meeting; however, the recording could be utilized at the Planning Board public hearing on December 16th. There was mention of taking additional measurements that could people could relate to, such as a farm tractor or the town loader, and Letendre was willing to do this. This was followed by brief discussion after Lockwood suggested making further changes to the ordinance, specifically altering the list of exclusions. It was noted the current draft is the version that must go to the first public hearing. Sartell stated those type of changes were not within the scope of what the board is trying to accomplish. He continued that consultants working with New Ipswich had specific focus in helping formulate the noise ordinance, and Letendre's work with the Planning Board will help explain to residents. Letendre said he will repeat measurements using a new testing device, and feels the figures proposed are adequate. It was suggested Letendre connect with Ed Dekker in New Ipswich. Pickman advised he had spoken with a reporter from the Monadnock Ledger and there will be an article about the proposed ordinance.

Sign Ordinance: Lockwood mentioned a recent court ruling and will send board members a link to read. Sartell said there did not seem to be a consensus yet by the board to proceed with this ordinance. Pickman suggested the board could approach this after gathering more information and coming back after the public hearing meeting in two weeks. Lockwood felt the board should make an update attempt. Sartell asked about how to approach interpretation of specific aspects such as use of flags, internally lit signs, and directional signs. Willard suggested the board should read up on signs before the next meeting.

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Other business:

- Lockwood brought up having the Planning Board use alternates, and provided some information. The process of appointing alternates was explained. Planning Board members are elected, but appoint their own alternate members. Lockwood made a motion to ask the Board of Selectmen to present a warrant article to voters to allow the Planning Board to have up to five (5) alternate members in accordance with RSA 673:2, seconded by Petro. Pickman asked to speak to the question, and said he felt this is not necessary, as there have been few times when not having a quorum occurs. He said he is more comfortable having everyone elected. Willard said there could be a problem finding volunteers, and he agreed with Pickman. Sartell mentioned there is spotty attendance for some of the elected members, and the board should ask the Selectmen to consider. Pickman said he would like to see a vote of the full board (two members being absent at this meeting), and Petro thought the Selectmen should be asked for their opinion. No further action taken.

- Pipeline: It was noted Kuster and Hassan have officially declared opposition to the proposed NED pipeline project. Also, there is an important meeting on December 15th at the school with a presentation by a doctor who specializes in the effects of pollution on children.

Move to adjourn by Petro, second by Sartell, and so voted at 8:11 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry

~ Next regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 16th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. ~