

**CONWAY PLANNING BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**MARCH 23, 2006**

A meeting of the Conway Planning Board was held on Thursday, March 23, 2006 beginning at 7:04 p.m. at the Conway Town Office in Center Conway, NH. Those present were: Chair, Robert Drinkhall; Vice Chair, Conrad Briggs; Secretary, Martha Tobin; Sheila Duane; Steven Porter; Russell Henderson; Planning Director, Thomas Irving; and Recording Secretary, Holly Meserve.

**REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Briggs made a motion, seconded by Mr. Porter, to approve the Minutes of March 9, 2006 as written. Motion carried with Ms. Tobin abstaining from voting.**

**PUBLIC HEARING – TREE REMOVAL ON A SCENIC ROAD – RSA 231:158**

David Crane of Public Service Company of NH appeared before the Board. This is a public hearing for the removal of trees along designated scenic roads Baird Hill Road, Crown Hill Road, Davis Hill Road, Greeley Road, Gulf Road, Leavitt Road and Potter Road to facilitate utility services. The public hearing was opened at 7:00 pm. Mr. Crane stated that it was four years ago that they trimmed the Town of Conway. Mr. Crane stated that there is a high frequency of outages and the biggest problem has been from the ice storm in 1998. Mr. Crane stated that there is residual damage from the ice storm.

Mr. Crane stated they would like to remove 67 trees that are a problem, which figures to be approximately 4-1/4 trees in a mile of line. Mr. Crane stated that they speak to all customers before the work is done. Mr. Drinkhall asked if they speak to the individual landowners. Mr. Crane answered in the affirmative. Mr. Crane stated there are two full time people that speak to the landowners.

Mr. Henderson stated that PSNH has certain requirements, but the RSA allows the towns to have further restrictions and asked if the Town has any restrictions. Mr. Crane stated that he was made aware of regulations for commercial sites. Mr. Irving stated that we have a policy regarding scenic roads.

Mr. Drinkhall asked for public comment; Tom Deans of Potter Road stated scenic roads are a wonderful asset in the Town of Conway. Mr. Deans stated that it constantly amazes him how many people walk, bike and enjoy these roads. Mr. Deans stated that canopy roads are a special treat and Potter road is a primary canopy road. Mr. Deans stated that recently there have been a number of poles installed that are larger than what was there. Mr. Deans stated that the enjoyment of these roads is incredibly special. Mr. Deans stated that the more Potter Road is opened up the more it is becoming a bypass to Eaton, plus the speed increases. Mr. Deans stated that they are concerned with the higher poles.

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Mr. Crane stated the heights of the poles were set by the Telephone Company and not PSNH, even though they are jointly owned. Mr. Crane stated that there are new regulations and the existing poles did not meet today's standards. Mr. Crane stated that higher lines mean less chance for someone to get into trouble. Mr. Crane stated there are three trees in that area with a lot of decay. Mr. Deans asked if there are any safety concerns. Mr. Crane answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Crane stated that the average growth rate is 2-feet a year give or take and depending on the specie. Mr. Crane stated that we have experienced crews who will be doing this work. Mr. Crane stated that the tree and the age would depend on what happens as well as discussing it with the homeowner. Mr. Deans stated most are old trees and not a lot of new growth. Mr. Crane stated that the trimming would not have a big impact as it was just trimmed four years ago. Mr. Crane stated the problem is not with limbs falling on the wires, but with trees falling on the wires.

Jim Doucette of Gulf Road stated that most of the damage is due to the ice storm. Mr. Crane stated that Gulf Road has had the highest number of power outages in the last year. Mr. Deans asked if PSNH needs easements to cut out of the town's right-of-way. Mr. Crane stated that is why we have people ahead of the crews speaking with the landowners because if we don't have an easement then we have to get permission from the landowner.

Thad Thorne stated that they should flag every tree to give the abutters a chance to review them. Mr. Crane stated that they usually do flag the trees when speaking to the landowner. The public hearing was closed at 7:45 pm. Mr. Crane agreed to flag trees on Tuesday, March 28, 2006 and to review the flagged trees with the abutters present. **Mr. Briggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tobin, to continue the public hearing until April 13, 2006. Motion unanimously carried.**

**JEANNE WHITNEY/PHILIP MCDONNELL/ANTHONY FRANCHI/PATRICIA FRANCHI/MEADOW GREEN REALTY TRUST II – 28-UNIT SUBDIVISION  
CONTINUED (PID 219-303) FILE #S05-11**

Doug Burnell and Josh McAllister of H.E. Bergeron Engineers and Ed McBurnie of McBurnie Law Office appeared before the Board. This is an application for a 28-unit subdivision [modified March 9, 2006]. This application was accepted as substantially complete on April 28, 2005.

Mr. Burnell stated that they met with the Board of Selectmen and they accepted the road layout to the Artist Falls piece and another road leading to the Puddin Pond track for conservation and not be open to the public. Mr. Burnell stated that the trailhead parking has been removed from the plan. Mr. Irving stated the applicant has agreed to connect the two town properties with a trail through this property. Mr. Burnell reviewed sheet 9 with the landscaping along the Hill property, which will remain heavily vegetated.

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Mr. Drinkhall read the requirements to grant a waiver. Mr. Drinkhall read the waiver requests for §131-43, §131-68 Table 2 Intersection design guidelines – Intersection and roadway grades, §131-68 Table 2 Intersection design guidelines – Approach speed and distances, and §131-68 Table 2 Intersection design guidelines – Minimum centerline offset from adjacent intersection (125’).

**Ms. Duane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Porter, to grant the waiver request for §131-43, §131-68 Table 2 Intersection design guidelines – Intersection and roadway grades, §131-68 Table 2 Intersection design guidelines – Approach speed and distances, and §131-68 Table 2 Intersection design guidelines – Minimum centerline offset from adjacent intersection (125’).** Mr. Drinkhall asked for Board comment; there was none. Mr. Drinkhall asked for public comment; there was none. **Motion unanimously carried.**

**Ms. Tobin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Porter, to continue the 28-unit subdivision for Jeanne Whitney, Philip McDonnell, Anthony Franchi, Patricia Franchi, and Meadow Green Realty Trust II until April 13, 2006. Motion unanimously carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly L. Meserve  
Recording Secretary