

Town of Leyden, MA

Planning Board

Minutes of Meeting: 7/10/19

Attendees: Rob Snedeker, Art Baker, Bob Snow, Warren Facey

Absent: David Curtis

Call To Order: Meeting was called to order @ 7:06pm by Chairman Rob Snedeker.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: 5/8/19 – Bob Snow made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Art Baker and a unanimous vote in favor followed.

6/12/19 – Chairman Snedeker made a motion to amend the minutes to add that a unanimous vote was held to schedule a public hearing for the tree removal on East Hill Road on 7/10 @ 7:00pm. Bob Snow made a motion which was seconded by Warren Facey and a unanimous vote in favor followed.

6/26/19 – A motion was made by Art Baker and seconded by Bob Snow to approve the minutes as written and a unanimous vote in favor followed.

7/8j/19 – A motion was made by Warren Facey and seconded by Bob Snow to approve the minutes as written and a unanimous vote in favor followed.

Special Permit Review: Bill Parsons of Odyssey Behavioral HealthCare introduced self and offered to answer any questions knowing that the public hearing is to be held 7/25/19 @ 7:00pm where he will give a detailed presentation of the proposed gaming rehab center. Added traffic count is one of the elements that the Planning Board considers and Chairman Snedeker asked that they address that at the public hearing. Bill stated that there will be a lot of video communication with the parents and otherwise parents may or may not visit on weekends. There was concerns from one attendee about psychiatric evaluations and Chairman Snedeker said it was a good concern but asked that they bring this to the public hearing so that the Planning Board could finish their regular business prior to the tree hearing at 8:00pm. Chairman Snedeker asked that they include what type of screening is done prior to delivering the participants into the program. Participants will be checked into the house and be transported to the Angel's Rest facility by the program transportation. The program will be mainly focusing on young men. This program is not a recognized diagnosis center so there will not be any treatment, it will be more of a retreat services for the young men. Police Chief Dan Galvis brought up that previous attendees have committed crimes and Chairman Snedeker said this was good information for the public hearing.

Other Business Not Reasonably anticipated: Vickie Donahue, 443 West Leyden Road, received a letter from Jim Hawkins that she needed to apply for a special permit application due to a 20' rear setback so she brought some sketches and the Board instructed her on how to apply for the permit through the Town Clerk.

Correspondence Received: None

ANR Review: None

Solar Bylaw: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Participation: None

Public Tree Hearing: Chairman Snedeker opened the hearing at 8:00pm and gave a brief introduction of the location of the trees to be removed on East Hill Road and introduced the tree warden, David Brooks. He explained that the Planning Board has jurisdiction over the trees but that the Selectboard has jurisdiction over the road project and that those questions should be addressed through their Board. Several were upset that the work was done prior to any notice. David spoke as the highway superintendent and explained how there is 192 cars per day based on a traffic study. The road needs drainage and he has received several complaints about mud in the spring and wash board and dust in the summer. David acknowledged that the cart was put before that horse but that he immediately stopped when the negative feedback was received. The Town is trying to shift the road to the center of the ROW which varies from 33' – 40'. They are trying to build a safe road that requires less maintenance and is safe. Trees in question are marked with ribbons and there are 22 total. Sid Herron questioned how anyone knows where the location of the ROW is. Chairman Snedeker indicated that if he had received money from APR which Sid acknowledged he did, they had to do a survey of the property and that he should have a copy of that survey that shows the ROW. Many members of the audience want to know what is going on with the road. Bill Glabach and Lance Fritz were in attendance and suggested that they ask for an item on the agenda and attend. They did answer some questions now but don't want to shut out any others that may have questions and concerns that can be heard at a posted Selectman's meeting. In general, the audience of about 25 understood that not much could be done about the trees but wanted to know more about the master plan and limits of the project. A member of the audience who lives in Shelburne but has a love for Leyden and walks East Hill Road frequently, gave a sermon about the emotions that are attached to trees and the life force that has been lost in today's world. The trees are gone to a better place but that we are still here and have to manage them appropriately. Chairman Snedeker thanked the woman who spoke on this subject as it was very relevant to the trees and gave a different perspective from someone who walks the road. Chairman Snedeker asked if there was any other comments regarding the trees and thanked everyone for their attendance and input. He closed the tree hearing at 8:45pm. A discussion was then had between the Planning Board and the Tree Warden and requested that in the future he make sure that a tree hearing is held prior to the commencement of any project that may affect tree removals. In the meantime, for this specific project, since the damage was already done, everyone agreed that the trees need to be removed. The Board voted 3-0 in favor of removing the trees with Warren Facey abstainng.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 @ 7:00pm.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Art and seconded by Bob to adjourn at 9:04pm and a unanimous affirmative vote followed.

Respectively Submitted, Art Baker, Clerk