

TOWN OF EDDINGTON, MAINE

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PLANNING BOARD

February 12, 2015

6:30 pm

MINUTES

EDDINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 440 MAIN ROAD, EDDINGTON, ME

CALL TO ORDER: Tom Vanchieri called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL: Members present were Tom Vanchieri, Henry Hodges, Craig Knight, Susan Dunham-Shane, Gretchen Heldmann and David McCluskey Charles Norburg has an excused absence.

PUBLIC HEARING

Tom Vanchieri opened the Public Hearing on the Mineral Extraction Addendum and Zoning Ordinance Changes. He explained the format and rules for the Public Hearing. The following comments were made during the Public Hearing:

1. Jim White asked the Board if they had done any sound tests themselves of trucks running up and down the road to set the sound levels. Susan explained that they do not do sound tests. They follow industry standards and best practice research.
2. Stephanie Seccareccia said that a year ago this gym was filled with residents that were in favor of a moratorium. She thanks the Board for all of their work, but there is still a lot of concern among residents that do not think the setbacks are stringent enough at 1000'. They want them to be one mile so they can enjoy their homes and keep a quarry out of their neighborhoods where they live, pay taxes and enjoy life with their families.
3. Frank Arisimeek said he has a quarry now with a lot of activity and has had no complaints. He doesn't know why he should be penalized by stringent setbacks when he was there before a lot of the houses and quarry activity has taken place there for 30 years.
4. Rusty Gagnon noted the many people that were at the meeting last year were against a quarry in Town. She then asked if the Board believes that this is the best product that they can produce and if the Board as a whole and individually believe this should be accepted by the Town?
5. Bob Cicone asked in regards to Frank A. stating that he has been operating a quarry for years, is removing gravel with no blasting considered mining? Susan said it is not considered a quarry, but it does fall under the statues for borrow, clay, silt, gravel and top soil.
6. Frank Arisimeek said that there has been rock blasting up there and most of these homes were built or purchased after the rock had been hauled out. Some of these homes are within 20' or 30' from where rock had been blasted and hauled away and there is a lot of rock left up there.
7. Larry Langille, Hughes Bros., spoke about:
 - a. The processing definition and suggested that the ordinance state exactly what is prohibited because if a company comes to town and starts to do all the studies and then get there and not understand that there are some things that they are not going to be able to do and he would have wasted money doing the studies.
 - b.. He said the Board has worked hard on the Addendum and Hughes Bros. has been there all along and the Board worked to keep the public's interest in mind and protect them

and have been very thorough to cover everything and at the same time have created an Ordinance that is flexible enough to allow mining to take place in Eddington. Mining happens all over because there is development all over. The only thing that he does not care for is that the private individual that wants to operate a small lot with just over 300 cubic yards, it may be hard for him to do all the studies and close the door for him, though he does understand that they need to be done.

c. He thinks that the 1000' setback for wells is good. He said we had heard from MDEP in respect to the number of wells Hughes Bros. has impacted in 26 or 27 years and it was basically none. Larry said that an operator is still going to have to meet the noise ordinance and the dust regulations no matter what the setback is. He thinks the Board has done a good job to protect the public and the environment.

d. As far as blasting, he said there could be blasting in the street for a municipal project or in a quarry operation. The blasts can be engineered based on certain situations and it is not a constant noise but a couple seconds a few times a year for a quarry operation. He thinks it will be less of an impact than people would think.

8. Ralph McLeod said that he has been at most of the meetings and the Board has done a great job creating an Ordinance that will protect the people of Eddington and the property owners. His concern is that the blasting involves drilling 50 holes, putting 20 pounds of explosive in each hole and then setting it off. That is 1,000 pounds of explosive going off at once less than half a mile from the Eddington School. Mr. McLeod thinks that the setback for any blasting should be a mile from any school or protected place.
8. Mark DeRoche wanted to remind people that Frank and Dave bought the land before most of the houses were built on the hill and they own house lots on the hill that they planned to build up there. One thing the hill has is a good view, and from the top of the hill you cannot see the quarry. As far as blasting, there have been experts on blasting and from the state that talked about it at a meeting and they do not see any problem with it. They have been told that they will be blasting 2 or 3 times a year and the expert said that you might feel a rumble, not rocks flying through the air. There is a quarry next to the Dedham School and you do not hear any complaints about that. He does not feel that the school will be in any danger.
9. Rusty Gagnon responded to Mr. DeRoche's remarks about the school. She is a member of the School Board, and they are not concerned about rocks flying through the air, but the vibration and rumbling of the blasts that will be felt by the students. The school is now going to be for pre-k through 1st graders only for the entire district and there are students that are autistic or have special needs. There is concern about the welfare, mind set and the ability for those students to learn. She does not have a problem with a mile off.
10. Gretchen reminded the public that they are there talking about the Addendum and the changes to the Zoning Ordinance and not any one project in particular.
11. Mark DeRoche started to readdress the students and the school feeling the vibration and he said the state said it would be barely noticed. Susan explained to him about what Gretchen just said. He said that the people from the State of Maine said that blasting would not affect the school and he feels the people that are going to vote need to know this.

Tom Vanchieri closed the Public Hearing at 6:54 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Board discussed the meeting dates and when everyone will be available. They will meet on Tuesday, February 17th at 5:30. The Select Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 24th. The Board will need to present the MEO at that meeting to the Selectmen so they can review it for a Public Hearing. Gretchen said that they should set the meeting dates for next week and if they get everything done on Tuesday, they can cancel the other meetings. They will also set a meeting for Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 5:30 pm and if needed, Monday February 23, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

Susan prepared a list of items to work on at the meetings based on comments at the Public Hearings and other meetings:

Ground Water Section
Storm Water Section
Noise Section, misunderstandings about terminology and make sure they are happy with the levels.
Change the wording for the blasting
Discuss air blast sound decibels
Discuss any attorney responses and if they have any more questions for him.
Setbacks

The Board is waiting for a response from the Attorney on further questions they had after the review of his first comments. Any changes discussed at the meetings next week will have to be made to the documents and then sent concurrently to the Selectmen and Mr. Gilbert.

STAFF REPORTS:

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 7:06 pm.

By Gretchen/Henry 2nd. All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Knowles,
From Susan Dunham-Shane's notes and the recording