

JOINT SITE WALK MINUTES

March 14, 2020

68 Port Way, Rye, NH

Town Officials Present: Planning Board Chair Patricia Losik; Planning Board Members JM Lord; Stephen Carter; Katy Sherman; Selectmen's Representative William Epperson. Board of Adjustment Vice-Chair Shawn Crapo; Board of Adjustment Members Patrick Driscoll; Frank B. Dibble; Robert Patten; Town Attorney Michael Donovan.

Verizon Representatives Present. Thomas Hildreth, Esq.; Site Acquisition Specialist Chip Fredette; Wetlands Scientist Audra Klumb; Engineer Sylvester Bhembe.

Others Present. Michelle Tyminski; Joanne Hardin; Stephen Bourne; Arik Jones; Jeff Knapp; Cindy Knapp; Lou Karabtsos; Gail Finn; Kathleen McCabe; Chalaes Moore; Bill McHale, Mike Thiel; and others¹.

Chair Losik called the meeting to order at 9:00 am at a location on Port Way just north of 24 Port Way. She asked members of the boards who were present to identify themselves. She read the notice for the site walk and indicated that the purpose of the site walk was to view the trees which would be cut in order to build the access driveway and tower compound.

The group walked up Port Way to the point where the proposed driveway diverges from the woods road. Mr. Fredette and Ms. Klumb pointed out the centerline of the proposed driveway and indicated that the trees flagged in red were trees within the wetlands buffer which would be removed and that the trees flagged in pink were trees outside of the buffer which would be removed. Mr. Fredette also pointed out stakes which marked the boundary of the wetlands buffer.

It was indicated that Ms. Tyminski had previously visited the site (which is public land) and marked some trees (6) which she thought would be cut with green flags. There was discussion about one large hemlock off the edge of the proposed drive which she had flagged but which Verizon had not flagged. Ms. Tyminski thought the root system would be destroyed by construction of the driveway. Some persons present expressed the opinion that it was dying.

Mr. Fredette reminded the group that a planning board condition of approval is that after construction of the compound a forester review and identify trees which should be removed because they pose a potential hazard. He suggested the forester could make the call on this large hemlock.

Mr. Bourne inquired about why the section of the woods road which lies on state land could not be used to avoid the wetlands buffer. There was a general discussion by Mr. Fredette and the

¹As a safeguard against the corona virus an attendance signup sheet was not passed around.

two attorneys about the difficulty of working with the state on siting such facilities on state land which had been acquired with federal grants.

Mr. Bourne also asked about how the utilities would be extended to the site. Mr. Fredette explained they would be installed underground adjacent to the inland side of the road/drive from the last pole on Port Way to the compound.

The group proceeded to the site of the proposed tower compound. Mr. Fredette pointed out the corners for the proposed compound which had been marked with stakes and also the location of the tower within the compound. Mr. Fredette confirmed that the tree clearing would extend 10 feet beyond the compound fence.

At 9:35 a.m. Chair Losik adjourned the site walk and the group headed back to the cars parked in the vicinity of 5 and 10 Port Way.

At that time Vice Chair Crapo convened an informal discussion of the planned Board of Adjustment meeting scheduled for March 18 and of the procedures that would be in place for protecting against the possibility of the corona virus. He indicated that the present plan was to proceed with the meeting and that the town would try and have procedures in place to allow for remote testimony or questions by phone or email.

Respectively submitted,

Michael Donovan, Esq.
Town Attorney