



Mason Planning Board

July 29, 2020

Approved

Attending Members

Dane Rota, Dotsie Millbrandt (Vice Chair), John Suiter (Alternate)

Absent Members

Scott MacGarvey (Chair), Kate Batcheller, Charlie Moser (Ex-O)

Attending Public

Cheri Grovesteen, Paul Pepin, Crystal Franciosi, Dave Morrison, Anna M. Faiello, Liz Fletcher

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Vice Chair Dotsie Millbrandt

Next Meeting

Next meeting: August 26, 2020 at 7 pm via **Zoom**. If there is a hearing scheduled, it may be changed to an in-person meeting at the town hall. At this time, the board knows only of a possible preliminary conceptual discussion.

Voting Members Tonight

Voting members tonight: Dane Rota, Dotsie Millbrandt, John Suiter

Regular/Old Business

Minutes

The Board read the minutes of June 24, 2020 and approved the minutes as submitted. Vote: All in favor.

Correspondence

None

New/Continuing Hearings

Hearing on Tree Removal along a Scenic Road

A public hearing to discuss the trimming and removal trees on Jackson Road for maintenance purposes per request of the Mason Road Agent. Jackson Road is approximately 1.13 miles long and was designated as a scenic road in 1992 by vote at the Town Meeting in 1992.

Jackson Road landowners present: Cheri Grovesteen, Paul Pepin, Anna Faiello

Others present:

Dave Morrison, Road Agent

Crystal Franciosi, Arborist and consulting contractor for Eversource on this project

Dave introduced Crystal. Crystal presented the plan. There are 24 trees next to the power line along Jackson Road that are either dead, rotten or are leaning towards the line. They will fall on the line and cause a power outage at some time in the future.

Because Jackson Road is a designated scenic road, property owners have to give permission for the tree cutting, except when a tree poses an imminent danger to the public. In that case, the Selectmen can give permission. There are 6 property owners affected, 3 have signed off.

Dane asked if any of the trees are an imminent danger. Crystal said they will be a problem at some point but probably not immediately.

Cheri Grovesteen said that last winter, when the contracted company Asplund trimmed trees for Eversource, they had asked permission. She gave it and requested the wood be set aside for her, but they hauled the good logs away and tossed scrap trimmings in the woods.

This year Crystal will oversee the work, and will talk more with Cheri. Also Anna would like to speak with Crystal individually. Crystal said the contractor will leave the usable wood and have a chipper get rid of the brush.

Dane asked for a sketch of the road and trees to be cut. Eversource sent Dave a list of trees to be removed with property addresses and pole numbers. Dave will copy it for our files.

Dane asked if there is a schedule. As this is part of a whole town operation, they can't predict too closely. Will work with Dave. Eversource doesn't close the roads if it can be avoided.

Dane moved that we accept the proposal to cut trees on Jackson Rd, subject to town oversight by Dave Morrison. John seconded. Vote: Dane - aye, John - aye, Dotsie - aye. The motion carries, tree cutting along Jackson Road has been approved.

Other Business

Master Plan

The board postponed discussion on the Master Plan until the next meeting.

Action Items

Keeping a running checklist of changes the board should make to the subdivision regulations and application checklist at some future time:

- The HCRD block is no longer required by Registry of Deeds
- Hillsborough Country Conservation Service no longer certifies soils on survey plats

Adjourn

Dane made a motion to adjourn. John seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.