

Approved Nov. 9, 2016

**FRANKLIN PLANNING BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING  
October 26, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order:**

- Pledge of Allegiance.
  
- Roll Call  
Present: Brian Colburn, Jo Brown, Tim Flaherty, Mike Freeman, Tim Stangroom, Ted Starkweather, Brian Sullivan, David Testerman, David Veysey  
Absent: Mayor Merrifield & Anthony Giunta. David Veysey is seated for the Mayor.
  
- Approval of Minutes from the September 28, 2016 meeting of the Planning Board. All in favor with a minor correction in spelling on page 5, under Other Business: 'where' instead of 'were'.

**Old Business: Continuation of hearing**

**P16-10: Eversource, owner and VHB applicant, are seeking site plan approval for updating the existing substation off Webster Lake Road (Map/Lot 076-001-00, 076-408-00 and 077-026-00, R-1 District) with new transmission equipment, a control house and associated equipment upgrades.**

Dave Fenstermacher, VHB, said that the big takeaways from the previous meeting were overhead line location, substation location and approach, along with the tree clearing. During the conceptual phase, they tried to minimize the impacts to the community and considered setbacks and existing structures. The location chosen is the only feasible location.

Pat Pinault, Eversource project manager, told the board that the plan to install overhead lines would cost around \$350,000, whereas to put the lines underground along with all the associated equipment for 34 KV lines from substation to substation would cost a million dollars.

Chairman Colburn inquired about the total cost of the project as planned. Mr. Pinault answered 12.7 million.

Mr. Fenstermacher described the landscaping proposal presented to the abutters which included a double row of 8-10 foot Arborvitae planted on 4 foot contoured berms to act as screening. Following meetings with the abutters it was agreed that a fence would be installed for the Elliots and some selective clearing of pine trees would be undertaken. They were still in the process of coming to an agreement with the Ritters regarding the extent of the fencing and the placement of additional trees.

Member Flaherty asked about the meeting with the Ritters. Mr. Fenstermacher indicated that they had a rough sketch drawn up and were waiting for a final bid from the landscapers.

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Member Freeman asked if all the old, replaced equipment would be removed from the site upon completion of the project and Mr. Pinault assured the board that the three transformers and other materials would be hauled off.

Member Starkweather said that looking at the area photo the entire Elliot property appeared to be fenced, but Mr. Fenstermacher replied that it was only the side along Webster Lake Road with a little return at the corner.

Planner Lewis asked that the completed Ritter landscaping plan be shared with Planning and Zoning.

The Meeting was then opened to public comment. Having none, the meeting was returned to the Board.

Member Sullivan said he had met with representatives of Eversource and felt that the berm idea was excellent, serving as both a site and sound barrier. He had a very positive feeling about the project.

Chairman Colburn stated that he appreciated the applicant taking another look at the design and the cost perspective and asked if there was a motion.

Member Sullivan moved to approve the Site Plan application [P16-10] of Eversource for an expansion to the Webster Lake Road Substation. This approval shall be consistent with the draft approval document prepared by the Planning and Zoning Administrator and submitted for review to the Planning Board prior to the 10/26/16 hearing. Any revisions made by the Board shall be incorporated into the final approval document. The motion was seconded by Member Starkweather. In a vote of 9-0-0 the motion passed.

**Public Comment:** None

**Other Business / Planner's Update:**

Planner Lewis noted that the Macosko foundry on Gile Pond Road is a Brownfield cleanup project. He added that soon a demolition firm would go in there and take the building down. Although not all the materials on site would be able to be removed, they would put a good dent in the wood and junk steel. Inroads with staff at DES may result in additional funding to remove a small amount of contaminated soil remaining on the site that the EPA couldn't remove last year due to the confined nature of the area and structural integrity problems at the time. Hopefully the project will be completed this fall.

**Adjournment**

Member Sullivan moved and Member Starkweather seconded a motion for adjournment. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:23 p.m.

- The next Planning Board regular meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and the application dead line date is October 19, 2016.