

TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
PLANNING BOARD  
Minutes of the Meeting- May 19, 2014

Present        David McKenzie, Chairman  
                 Christopher Maple, Vice Chairman  
                 Jeffrey Rose, Ex Officio  
                 Sam Cohen  
                 Peter Martel

Guests        Donna Harris  
                 Dennis McKenney  
                 Sharon Hubbard  
                 Paul Day  
                 Terry Hardwick

Chairman McKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The minutes of the April 7, 2014 meeting were reviewed and accepted with corrections

The minutes of the April 28, 2014 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

An application has been submitted by Mr. Charlonne for JCL Septic. A Public Hearing will be scheduled for June 9, 2014.

The Public Hearing for the Harris Gravel Pit Excavation renewal was opened at 7:15 p.m. General Manager Donna Harris and Dennis McKenney represented Mr. Harris who is turning 101 years old. The Board reviewed the application with help from Mr. McKenney. It was noted that the total acreage of both pit areas is about 70 acres. The new excavation area is about .5 acre. Mr. McKenney will find out current use information for the Board. It was noted that the drainage in the pits are contained within the pits and are absorbed naturally. No equipment maintenance is done at the pit site and there is no fuel tank storage there. The equipment is only on site seasonally. It was questioned if a reclamation plan was shown on the plan. Mr. McKenney stated that he was given the wrong form from the Town Office. It was noted that the

area to be reclaimed is driven over so it cannot be covered with loam or seeded at this time. A guideline for reclamation was given but no schedule as it is not known when reclamation will be done. A timeline for depletion of the gravel would be just a guess at this time. There are no ledges in the pit area. Sam Cohen made a motion to accept the application as complete. Christopher Maple seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. McKenney gave a brief history of the gravel pit. Excavation began in the early 1980s. The margins of the pits have remained unchanged for years. There are no explosives at the pits and no processing is done at the pits. There is only a loader and large bulldozer at the site. The pit is considered a modest gravel pit. Sharon Hubbard noted that she has records showing that per the DES no permits were filed for 2008. Ms. Harris stated that they have always been in compliance. Mr. McKenney stated that as of April 14, 2014 the DES states that the pit is in compliance. Chairman McKenzie referred to a letter from the DES received on September 1, 2009 noting a wetlands and non site specific permit to replace culverts.

Paul Day asked for clarification on how far the pit must stay above the water table. It was stated that currently it is listed as 5 feet below the pit floor. The Board will look into the regulations as there was some confusion as to the correct distance. Mr. Day also asked about the bond requirement for reclamation. It was explained that Mr. Harris gave the Town money that was put into an escrow account for reclamation instead. The Board has been in contact with the State for a standard of reclamation cost. It appears that no real standard is available. It was noted that the top soil is on site for such time as the reclamation is done.

It was agreed to continue the hearing and schedule a site visit. The site walk was scheduled for June 9, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the Harris Gravel Pit North entrance with a continuance to be held at the Bennington Town Hall to follow at 7 P.M. Mr. McKenney will provide information on the water table and current use.

Sam Cohen expressed concern that the applicant had been given the wrong forms. It was noted that all forms should have a date on them. It was suggested that it become policy when any document is approved, a date be put on it. A master list of the current forms and dates should be kept with the Town Clerk.

Chairman McKenzie asked if the Manley plat had been sent to be recorded yet. As it was still in the office it appeared that it had not.

In reviewing the Master Plan Questionnaire, Chairman McKenzie made a motion to delete the question about socially responsible business in town. Peter Martel seconded the motion and all were in favor.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher  
Planning Board Recording Secretary