

TOWN OF THORNTON

August 14, 2007

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

5:30 The meeting was called to order.

Board members present: Arthur Gross and Jim Parziale

Also present: Administrator Andrew (TA), Jaye Olmstead, Merelise O'Connor, Giff and Sally Kriebel, Jim Demeritt, Lee Freeman, Karl Haartz, Stanley Penny

Jaye Olmstead and Merelise O'Connor came before the board from Voices Against Violence. Jaye is Executive Director. Ms. O'Connor stated she knows it is hard for towns to come up with monies and the organization wanted to meet with the board when it is not so busy. Ms. Olmstead stated they wanted to put a personal touch on their thank you to the town. She continued that their organization has been doing a lot of work with the Police Department over the past year, and Thornton has been wonderful to work with. They asked the town's assistance in distributing their information. Voices Against Violence serves the whole family unit. More than one shelter exists and arrangements can be made to assist individuals as needed. Lee Freeman asked if there is a website. Ms. Olmstead responded that there is. Mr. Freeman suggested that it might be worth putting a link on the town website to theirs. Selectman Gross agreed.

Selectmen's meeting 7/31/07 minutes approved as amended. PASSED (x2)

Selectmen's meeting 8/2/07 minutes approved as presented. PASSED (x2)

Selectman Gross stated that the town has heard from Mr. Magowan relative to a situation on Mad River Road. Mr. Magowan has asked that the town fine the owner of a property that he says is not in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.

5:48 John Rousseau came before the board relative to his property on NH Rte 175. His appraiser got property cards from the internet, but the appraiser won't come to the house because the card refers to his property as commercial because of the mixed use classification. They are also concerned with the greenhouse on the property. Selectman Gross suggested Mr. Rousseau get a copy of the zoning ordinance for the appraiser. Mr. Rousseau stated he had talked with Marianne today and he has a copy of the current card. The TA explained that mixed use is noted on the majority of property cards as there are no separate value structures for residential, commercial or industrial zoned properties.

5:55 The board reported that scrap metal has been removed from the Highway garage.

6:00 Karl Haartz stated Upper Mad River Road is getting better. He stated his concern about trees dieing due to dirt pushed around them during ditching efforts. He continued that there was a load of crush that was "gate spread" today and there is no crown on the road now.

Mr Haartz stated that they can't get 22' width in places. Selectman Gross stated that the road was originally laid out as a cart path. Lee Freeman suggested the board take a road trip with the Road Agent to go over the roads. Mr. Demeritt stated that the town doesn't have a roller but the state has one that could be borrowed to roll a road after it is graded. This would help reduce pot holes. He stated there are fundamental issues that need to be addressed and he has been doing road work for 35 years. Lee Freeman stated that there is money in the budget to rebuild gravel roads.

Selectman Gross stated the board does not get many complaints about roads from property owners. He stated that he would like to take a ride with the Road Agent. He continued that someone will complain no matter what the Road Agent does.

Karl Haartz inquired if we need scenic roads anymore? What does it take to get the classification changed? Selectman Gross stated that it would need to be voted by the people at Town Meeting.

6:13 Stanley Penny stated he wants to put an addition on a building on his property. He does his own work and has built his own house. If he were building for someone else he wouldn't have a problem with the building permit process. Mr. Penny stated you can't build your own house. He stated he talked to the building inspector and asked what instrument changed that right. Selectman Gross responded that Mr. Penny would still have to have an electrician approve the electrical work. He cited a house in Northpointe where the electrical work was denied by a state inspector and they made the owner tear it out and have it redone.

Mr. Penny stated he moved into this town because the "good old boys" still ran the town. He continued that there are three inalienable rights in the constitution and the town was denying him his rights. He stated some people with licenses do poor work. He stated he can't understand how the people in this town would have approved this building permit process. He would have hoped that a person in his own home could do his own work and finds it hard to believe that he has to pay for someone to inspect his work. He continued that he feels uncomfortable going to an electrician and asking to use their license and he thinks that the rule does not apply to the homeowner. Selectman Gross stated the form was made so that people are treated the same. Mr. Penny insisted that if it is your home you shouldn't have to do these permits. He stated that the building inspector told him the rule is not really coming into affect until next year.

Mr. Penny stated that after he thought about it he just wouldn't put any electricity in that room. Selectman Gross stated that the building inspector should come to a selectmen's meeting and discuss the process so that everyone is on the same page.

Mr. Penny stated he would not sign rules and regulations. He has the right to build his own house. These forms take away your rights. Sally Kriebel responded that she believes no one is telling you that you cannot do the work, but that you need to have to a licensed

person inspect that work. Mr. Penny stated he was willing to die for this country! All rules are negotiable, they can be waived. Giff Kriebel inquired if it is a state law requiring inspections? Selectman Gross responded that the board will request the building inspector to come to a meeting that everyone can discuss it.

Jim Demeritt stated the problem is that a contractor won't put their number on and accept the responsibility of someone else work. It was suggest that Mr. Penny see if the state will come down and inspect the construction. Mr. Freeman stated the building permit process is the planning board's design. Mr. Penny stated he thinks that it is a back door situation that was initiated by the state taking away an individual's right to build their home.

Selectman Gross stated the building inspector has been told that he can get a licensed person to inspect a property if necessary. Mr. Freeman stated he does not think that the other taxpayers should pay for individual inspections. Mr. Penny stated a person of the town's choice could inspect his property. He continued that the overall features are good but it stops him from building his house. Government control is ridiculous. He wants his kids and grandkids to be able to live there. He does not mind paying to have an electrician inspect the work but that the cost of a building permit should cover the inspection costs. The TA responded that the price of the building permits will increase dramatically if the town has to have licensed individuals inspect each phase of a building.

Mr. Penny stated he is willing to let the board do what it needs to do so that the town can find out what they need to and he will amend the building permit to include the electrical work if it is approved at a later date.

7:05 Selectman Gross and Selectman Parziale read a letter of resignation from Terry Joyce effective immediately relative to her position in the Police Department It was moved to reluctantly accept the letter of resignation.

Giff Kriebel inquired if the advertisement for was for a full time position in the Police Department. He noted that the position has not been filled full time for some time and it would seem obvious that the department could support a part-time position. Selectman Gross stated that the officers have had to cover a lot of the shifts and that she was here during the emergency in the spring.

Lee Freeman stated that there is a building going up on Lumber Road and that no "T" is posted. TheTA confirmed that a building permit had been issued for a house on Lumber Road.

Lee Freeman stated that wire guardrails are gone on Stone Dam and Merrill Access Roads. He expressed his hope they can be repaired before winter as he is concerned about safety especially now that trees have been removed by Top Notch.

Selectman Gross stated that there are nine units at the Blake Mountain Resort but that there are only 4 acres. Mr. Demeritt stated that there has been a complaint about people

burning construction debris there. Selectman Gross stated that the Zoning Ordinance does not allow for the full time rental of all of the units. Ms. Kriebel stated the owner was supposed to come before the Planning Board, but did not.

Mr. Freeman stated that there are a lot of vehicles being placed behind the Ham house on US Rte 3. The board agreed that a letter should be sent to the Hams relative to the Zoning Ordinance and junk cars.

APPROVALS

Building Permits:

17 1 3-19	F.Dubach	house/garage
9 1 3-02	J&N Desrochers	log home
16 6 7-1	L&R Beaugrand	house/garage
15 1 30	E&E Lonergan	deck
11 4 14	S&T Penny	12x24 addn w/o plbg/elect
15 4 21	B.Anderson	house
11 1 98	A.Benway	2br house
16 7 63	G.Eagleson	ranch house
3 8 15	J&D Hutchins	bldg pmt Class VI agreement recd

Land Use Change

10 1 4-05	J&J Houde	\$850 driveway
-----------	-----------	----------------

Painting Municipal Building

NE Home Maintenance	\$435	municipal bldg. letters
	\$575	parking lot light poles

Code Compliance Letter:

15 4 15	L&I Shubov	rental properties
---------	------------	-------------------

Forest Fire Report/Bill

J.Ramsey, A.Gallagher	property of G.Kapp
-----------------------	--------------------

7:30 It was moved to adjourn. PASSED (x2)

**The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting
Will be
August 28, 2007
5:30 PM at the Municipal Building**