

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING ON HIGHWAY ACCESS APPLICATION #2015-3 OF THE
STRAFFORD SELECTBOARD

October 21, 2015

Members of the public body present: John Freitag, Stephen Marx, Toni Pippy, Brent Cadwell, Brian Johnson

Other active participants: Jon MacKinnon, Road Foreman, Jim Evans, Lindsey Evans, Carlton Phelps, David Lamb, Gary Kendall, Steve Wetmore, Ed Eastman, Ellen Langtree, May-Ellen Matson, Calvin Benjamin, Dana Kendall

The meeting was preceded by a site visit at 6 p.m. At which the current condition of the highway access was examined and property lines pointed out. Safety concerns were raised and Constable Ed Eastman offered to put up cones marking the driveway access in progress. After the site visit the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. In the Town Office

John thanked all for coming and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to address citizen concerns that Selectboard members have received over the steep driveway being built on Carpenter Hill. The Town Highway Access Policy is managed by Jon Mackinnon, Road Foreman.

Jon explained that he had provided current owner of the property Gary Kendall a copy of the Highway Access Policy with the stipulations for what is needed included. Gary submitted a completed Highway Access Application Form and Jon issued a Notice of Approval to Proceed. Brent Cadwell was hired to put in the driveway.

At the meeting, Gary Kendall, Brent Cadwell, and Jim and Lindsey Evans, who are in the process of purchasing the site to build a house, all made it clear that the current driveway is not finished. They all agreed that it was very steep and did not meet the highway access standards at this time. They said it was built in this manner to provide temporary access to the building lot. They said when the driveway was done, in approximately three weeks, it would meet the standards needed in order to obtain a Highway Access Permit. They questioned why there was a need for this meeting and if they were being treated fairly.

Board member Toni Pippy explained that when Board members are contacted with concerns that affect the Town we need to be able to respond with all the information pertaining to any issue. David Lamb, who has served as Chair of the Development Review Board, strongly agreed. He has found having public meetings and shedding light on issues where there are concerns is the appropriate and best way for to prevent misinformation. David who also lives downhill from the site noted that a great deal of water comes off the hill and care will have to be taken to not add to problems that can occur during times of runoff.

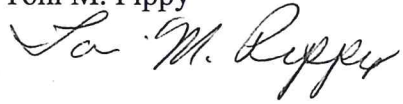
Other members of the public also brought up making sure that the driveway would not cause safety issues for those driving on Carpenter Hill Road.

Jon Mackinnon was asked if he wanted to have sole responsibility for issuing the Highway Access Permit for this driveway. He mentioned that with an earlier driveway application where there had been some public concern on Maple Hill Road he had brought his recommendation to the Board for their review and approval. He suggested we use the same process in this case and the Board agreed.

Calvin Benjamin and Carlton Phelps raised the issue of potential conflict of interest with Selectman Brent Cadwell also being the contractor. John said that being on the Board did not mean that you had to give up working in Town. John said our Guidelines for Selectboard Conduct included "managing my conflicts of interest so as to preserve public confidence in the board's decisions and actions". The decision on whether or not to recuse on an issue is left up to the individual Board member. Brent said that it was his intention to recuse himself from participating as a Selectboard member when the Board reviewed the Road Foreman's recommendation on issuing this Highway Permit.

Brent made a motion to adjourn and Brian seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Toni M. Pippy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Toni M. Pippy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.