

Canaan Planning Board
Approved Minutes
Meeting of October 8, 2009

Call to Order:

Andrew Musz called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Members present: Andrew Musz, John Bergeron, Joe Frazier, Pete Gibson (alternate), Tim Lewis, Chuck Townsend and Steve Ward. Chair Andrew Musz appointed Pete Gibson to Dan Ware's seat.

Chuck Townsend read the minutes from the meeting on September 24, 2009. Motion to accept as read was made by Steve Ward, seconded by John Bergeron and unanimously approved.

Correspondence: None

Routine Business: None

7:30 Public Hearing, to discuss tree cutting on scenic roads:

Andrew Musz opened the hearing on tree cutting on Upper Gates, Beech Cobble and Gould Roads. Dave Barney, Noel Everts, Lisa Ferneau, Philip Ferneau and Thomas Hudgens were present representing abutting landowners.

Dave Barney stated that we should do no cutting now. None of the marked trees interfere with passage, safety or maintenance of the road. Philip Ferneau said that improving the road is not a legitimate reason for cutting trees. Lisa Ferneau travels the roads several times a day, has seen the roads improve over the years at the same time the trees have been growing. She noted that the marked trees are generally deciduous and bare, not blocking the sun at the time of year when the road is muddy. Noel Everts added that the trees pull water out of the soil as soon as their buds begin opening.

7:45 Public Hearing Closed:

Because the marked trees are not currently a hazard, the select board can determine if trees are a hazard and have them removed without planning board involvement, and methods other than tree removal would be most useful in reducing muddy conditions, Chuck Townsend moved that the planning board deny in total the request for tree removal. Joe Frazier seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Andrew Musz will prepare a letter to the road agent conveying the decision.

8:00 Preliminary Completeness Review:

Andrew Musz reported that two homes on the Ed Lary property on Rt. 118 have been in place for thirty years or more, and that all of the driveways predate the need for state approval.

Andrew Musz reviewed the application for an additional dwelling unit. John Bergeron moved that the application was sufficiently complete for a public hearing. Chuck Townsend provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved. The hearing is scheduled for Nov 12 at 7:15.

8:20 Other Business:

Steve Ward accepted nomination as chair for this year's CIP committee. Steve Ward reported that his concerns are scheduling for expenses of emergency management, buildings,

roads and bridges rather than for town vehicles. Discussion was around size and constitution of the committee.

9:10 Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Chuck Townsend, seconded by Tim Lewis and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Townsend, Acting Scribe