



Canaan Planning Board
Meeting of February 26, 2015
Canaan Hall
Approved Minutes

Call to Order

7:00 Chuck Townsend opened the meeting in Canaan Hall off Orange Road. Members present: David McAlister, Kathi Meyerson, Carol Ann Morrison, Arnold Song and Chuck Townsend. There were nine public attendees as well as Kyle Burchard, the presenter.

Public Hearing - Mascoma Valley Regional High School renovation project

Kyle Burchard, PE, Project Manager from Meridian Land Services, began by showing the entire watershed and wetland areas upriver from the school. He reviewed the school property and its surrounding wetlands. Then he showed the school property with current and planned paved areas.

The new parking areas (doubling the number of parking places) and roads add 140,000 sq ft of additional impermeable area, increasing the total from ~7 acres to ~10 acres. However there is no stormwater management on the current site, and after the renovation almost all runoff will go through pretreatment areas before leaving the property. No permeable pavement is planned, because of the installation and maintenance costs.

The new bus road west of the school will have a maximum 9% slope, rather than the 10% slope they now contend with.

Flood waters backing up from the Baltic Mills dam can cause flooding in areas needed for the new septic system and leach field. The project includes filling some of this floodplain area. The project would move earth to create a new equally large backflow area in order to fill the area where flooding should be prevented. Excavated areas will be restored and seeded. There will not be a change in likelihood of flooding in the playing field areas.

The middle school septic system and leachfield are separate and not impacted by the project.

The two existing water wells will continue to be used. There will be new road construction near them but they should not be affected by the construction.

Route 4 will be widened to include turning lanes at its intersection with Royal Road/Blackwater Road. A rapid-response flashing beacon is planned to allow foot traffic to cross the widened Route 4. The west side of Blackwater Road will have a gravel foot path going as far as the rail trail. Currently three up to five students travel to school on snow machines, using a crossing separate from the road intersections. There should be conversations with NH DOT to decide whether the snow machine crossing should be moved to the intersection and pedestrian crossing.

There were questions about whether cistern placement should be changed to allow them to be used for a potential middle school sprinkler system as well as high school sprinklers.

There were also questions about the extensive placement of retaining walls, and whether earth swales or other less expensive measures could be used in their place.

Work southeast of the school will be done during summer 2015. The back half will be done in summer 2016, and traffic patterns will change then.

There is a CD available from Patrick Andrew with all plans (for \$2), and many planning documents are available on the SAU website.

Minutes Review

Chuck Townsend read the minutes from the Jan. 22, 2015 meeting. David McAlister moved approval with a location correction. After a second by Kathi Meyerson, the motion was approved.

Other business

Members will review Mary Pinkham-Langer's suggestions for revisions to the Excavation regulation for final discussion on March 12.

Adjournment

8:15 Kathi Meyerson moved adjournment with a second from David McAlister. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted
Chuck Townsend, Vice Chair