

Town of Goshen
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2010

Attendance: Thomas Lawton - Chairman, Allen Howe, Peta Brennan, and Raymond Porter.

Additional Attendance: Dianne Barden, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Tom Lawton at 7:00pm

Old Business: Review and approve meeting minutes from May 11th, June 8th and June 22nd meeting minutes on Newport Sand and Gravel Special Exception Permit. Mr. Howe stated that he had revisions to all three sets of minutes to address inaccuracies and significant gaps in the record.

May 11th meeting minutes were read, changes made with new revisions and approved. Pete Brennan made the motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Allen Howe.

The vote for approval was 3 for yes and 0 for no and 1 abstained.

The yes votes were Tom Lawton – Chairman, Peta Brennan, and Allen Howe.

Ray Porter abstained from voting.

June 8th meeting minutes were read, changes made with new revisions and approved. Peta Brennan made the motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Allen Howe.

The vote for approval was 3 for yes and 1 opposed.

The yes votes were Tom Lawton – Chairman, Peta Brennan, and Allen Howe.

Ray Porter opposed the approval.

June 22nd meeting minutes were read, changes made with new revisions and approved. Peta Brennan made the motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Allen Howe.

The vote for approval was 3 for yes and 0 for no and 1 abstained.

The yes votes were Tom Lawton – Chairman, Peta Brennan, and Allen Howe.

Ray Porter abstained from voting for the approval.

Ray Porter stated his opposition to approval due to the process of approval. He stated that the meeting minutes should be approved at the **next** meeting. Example: May 11 meeting minutes should have been approved on June 8th. The June 8th meeting minutes should have been approved on the June 22nd meeting. He also objected to the extent to which the minutes were revised.

Ray Porter made a motion that in the future we approve meeting minutes at the beginning of the next meeting.

That was seconded by Peta Brennan.

Tom Lawton then asked that that motion be tabled until we get to new business. The motion was tabled.

New Business: Approval of meeting minutes.

The discussion was opened by Ray Porter on approval of the meeting minutes. He stated that meeting minutes should be approved at the following meeting. He suggested that the first 15 minutes be used to go over meeting minutes and allow the public to be part of the approval since the public is part of the hearings. He stated that he felt that would maintain the accuracy of the minutes.

Tom Lawton then asked Mr. Porter if he (Mr. Porter) felt the revised minutes were inaccurate.

Mr. Porter stated to the best of his knowledge he did not know if any of the revised minutes were incorrect.

Ms Brennan then added "if there are any doubts of inaccuracies in the minutes it can be cleared by reviewing the taped meeting minutes."

More discussion followed about the approval of meeting minutes:

1. Chairman Tom Lawton stated he would like to see a policy written as to how and when meeting minutes are approved. He felt written policy would also help future members of the ZBA for consistency.
2. Allen Howe also stated that it would be the Chairman's decision as to whether the public gets to have input into the meeting minutes.
3. Chairman Lawton also stated that it might not be possible to approve meeting minutes at the next meeting if there are two major applications going on at the same time. A multi paged document could not be covered in fifteen minutes. Also he felt that the applicants would not want to pay for their appearing speakers to sit and wait while we go over meeting minutes at the expense of the applicants. More thoughts and ideas will have to be discussed on the approval of meeting minutes.
4. Another thought brought up by Chairman Lawton is that there is no back up selected to chair a meeting if Tom was not available. There is also no policy on this. He would like to get a policy in place at some point to cover this.

5. Peta Brennan suggested that the meeting could start at 6:30 for meeting minute approval and the regular meeting at 7pm. If the public wanted to be involved in the approval of the meeting minutes they would show up at 6:30.
6. Chairman Lawton asked that the ZBA members give more thought to meeting minute's approval process and bring ideas to the next meeting.

The original motion that was tabled was brought forward again with changes.

Ray Porter amended his original motion on meeting minute's approval to the following:

A motion was made by Ray Porter that the goal of the ZBA should be to address and approve the meeting minutes at the next meeting unless there are extenuating circumstances that prevent that from taking place.

Peta Brennan seconded the motion;

The motion passed with all 4 members present voting yes.

Chairman Lawton then thanked all the members for their dedication to the board and the NS&G permit meetings. He stated that he is willing to stay on the board until the NS&G process is complete.

A motion was made by Allen Howe to adjourn the meeting with a second from Peta Brennan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2010 at 7pm at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Dianne A. Barden

ZBA Secretary