

**Town of Goshen
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Minutes of November 9, 2011**

Members Present: Tom Lawton, Chair; Allen Howe; Ray Porter

Chair Lawton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of October 12, 2011.

Mr. Howe made a motion to accept the minutes of October 12, 2011 as corrected. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Budget

Chair Lawton resumed the Board's discussion from last month regarding the possible need for money in the budget for professional consulting services for the ZBA that are not related to an application.

Mr. Howe commented that he did not anticipate professional services for the ZBA except perhaps Attorney Waugh, whose expenses are covered through a different line item in the budget. He did suggest that the Board should ask for a 4-drawer legal sized locking file cabinet. The cost of such a cabinet is in the vicinity of \$250.

The Board members present were in agreement. Chair Lawton informed the Board that he will request a similar budget as last year and include the cost of a file cabinet.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lawton informed the Board members that he received an email from the Board of Selectmen requesting that the ZBA draft and provide a document summarizing the facts of the Newport Sand and Gravel application, to be placed on the town's website.

Mr. Lawton commented that neither the Town nor the ZBA should be in a position to publically defend its decision. All hearings, meeting minutes and decisions are accessible to the public. He

stated that he is not opposed to the idea of public awareness, but the ZBA should not be the Board to create such a document.

Mr. Howe commented that he feels the document should be drafted primarily because the public has asked for it to be done. He stated that he is in agreement with Mr. Lawton regarding the ZBA should not have to defend its decision. However, extracting the facts that led the ZBA to its decision into a short version would be helpful, as long as it was objective.

Mr. Porter commented that creating another document seems like a waste of time. If people do not want to take the time to read the existing material, then they probably would not take the time to read another document. Drafting such a document could damage the town's legal position and it is not in the ZBA's scope of responsibility or authority.

Mr. Howe stated that the existing material is comprised of meeting minutes representing hours and hours of meetings leading to a ZBA decision and almost 2,000 pages of material leading to the court decision. A two- or three-page document with a bullet list of facts leading to the ZBA's decision would be more tolerable.

After discussion, the Board agreed that this document should not be prepared by the ZBA; however, if individual Board members want to work with the Board of Selectmen on such a draft since they are more familiar with what took place, they may. Mr. Lawton will email the Board's decision to the Board of Selectmen.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mail

NH Town & City Magazine.

Municipal Network out of White River Junction, VT has invited members of Town government to attend a gathering of elected and appointed officials to meet on November 17, 2011.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lawton asked the Board members for approval to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Howe made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. All in favor. The Board entered executive session at 7:30 p.m.

The Board discussed personnel matters.

Mr. Howe made a motion to return to public session. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. All in favor. The Board returned to public session at 7:42 p.m.

Mr. Howe made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Plunkett
Recording Secretary