

Baldwin Planning Board Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Norman Blake called the public hearing to order at 7:02pm

II. Public Hearing

FE Wood Natural Energy, public plan application. Anthony Wood present. Reported having a guaranteed wood supply and wants to keep the permitting alive in case this plant become economically viable. Discussed doing an “experiment” down at a mill in Sanford to make sure everything works. Sanford Mill is ¼ the size of the one they would build here. Anthony predicted that there would likely be nothing within a year. Stated that nothing in his current submission differs at all from his previous submission. Stated that no state or federal laws have changed, feels that environmental regulations might get less strict, but FE Wood has no plans to change.

Blake stated that the word “renewal” was not appropriate regarding this permit. Due to nothing being done in 2 years in Baldwin the permit has expired. This is a de novo application.

Suzette McLaughlin brought up issues re: proximity to residential area, noise studies, and 24-hour operation. Concern about hearing a trailer dumping outside of bedroom window. Also discussed concern with asking town for grants. Discussed that there is already abandoned mills in town. Also stated that all of her concerns have been heard and should be documented in previous planning board minutes.

McLaughlin asked if the Woods were going to pay the legal fees that were apparently agreed upon in a previous meeting. Wood denied agreeing to pay any legal fees. No one was able to provide the information regarding this agreement.

McLaughlin stated that Matt Sanborn’s wife works for her and she would not take any issue with how any individual on the board votes on a personal level.

Public hearing closed by Blake and called a planning board meeting to order.

III. Roll Call

Selectmen: Norman Blake, Nichol Ernst, Matt Sanborn (alternate) Selectmen: Jeff Sanborn, Dwight Warren and James Doloff

Blake stated that Matt Sanborn is a voting member for this meeting due to absence of other board members.

IV. Reading of the Minutes From Last Meeting

Minutes read by Ernst, approved unanimously.

V. Open Business

- a) Rob Owens from Peters Construction brought paperwork regarding typical noise levels from types of equipment. Ernst brought up that this is not what was agreed in the last meeting as Peters was going to bring a noise study from his other pit. Fuller asked if we could address a noise issue later if noise becomes a problem. Also brought up that there is no noise ordinance in a town. Fuller stated that Peters is not able to get someone to conduct a noise study. Ernst explained again that as a planning board we have to consider noise.
- b) Discussion on FE Wood Pellet Mill. Blake brought up that the board would like to approve the permit with the exact same conditions. Blake asked if there is anything new on the application or has anything changed, Wood stated no. Sanborn and Ernst both stated that they are not comfortable voting as they were not involved in this discussion before and they just received a binder of information pertaining to this permit tonight. Ernst brought a motion that voting on this permit be postponed until the next public hearing so that Ernst and Sanborn can review the information and other planning board members can be present. Sanborn seconded. Some discussion regarding procedure occurred. Sunderland made a comment regarding if a permit is denied the applicant has to wait two years to reapply.

Vote on the motion by Ernst was unanimously approved.

VI. New Business

- a) Discussion from Suzette McLaughlin regarding minutes and whether or not we could post draft minutes on-line, and agendas ahead of time for the planning board. Also, discussion regarding video. Selectmen Sanborn brought up that they are going to begin videoing Selectmen's meeting. Ernst made a motion that we discuss this at our next meeting. Sanborn seconded. Vote was unanimous.

VII. Adjournment

Sanborn made a motion to adjourn at 7:55, Ernst seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Submitted by: Nichol Ernst