

Place: Raymond High School; Media Center

Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Bill Cantwell, Chairman; Peter Buckingham, Vice Chairman; Steve Naoum, Secretary; Frank Bourque, Selectmen's Representative; Gretchen Gott; Maurice Titcomb; Jonathan Wood.

Planning Staff: Ernest Creveling, Community Development Director; Robert Price, Planning Technician.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Cantwell stated he has been approached several times by members of the public asking him to discuss a case currently being reviewed by the Planning Board. Mr. Cantwell stated he could not and would not discuss a case outside of a meeting, and informed everyone to contact the Community Development Department if they would like to ask questions outside of a meeting.

Public Hearings – Thibeault

Continued from 09/06/07 - An application for Renewal of an Excavation Permit for Thibeault Sand & Gravel, LLC. The properties are shown on Raymond Tax Map 32, Lots 43 and 68; and Map 38, Lots 12 and 13.

Continued from 09/06/07 - An application for an Amended Excavation Plan has been submitted by Thibeault Sand & Gravel, LLC, on land known as Nashua River Land Corporation, to amend their Excavation Permit to add a quarrying operation. The properties are shown on Raymond Tax Map 32, Lots 43 and 68; Map 37, Lot 2; and Map 38, Lots 12 and 13; accessed via NH State Route 27.

Vince Iacozzi of Thibeault Corporation stated the well testing requested by the Board at the previous meeting will be done by October 17th/18th. The one contaminated well has been flushed and will be retested at that time. He stated the results should be back within a week from that time.

Mr. Iacozzi stated their Traffic Engineer has reviewed the potential effect of truck traffic, and has provided a letter to the Board indicating that the impact of truck traffic will not change over what is currently approved to take place on the site. Gretchen Gott asked about the numbers used to make the determination. Mr. Iacozzi replied that the numbers used were from 2005. Steve Naoum asked how long it took to load a truck. Mr. Iacozzi responded depending on the size of the truck, between 1 ½ to 3 minutes.

Frank Bourque asked if Mr. Iacozzi has had an opportunity to work on a security plan for the site. Mr. Iacozzi stated this is currently being addressed, and perhaps something will be ready by the next meeting.

Frank Bourque asked if Mr. Iacozzi had the opportunity to update the floodplain information to reflect where water levels were in April 2007 during the Town's most recently experienced flooding event. Community Development Director Creveling clarified that the Planning Board has been asking applicants to establish the levels which flood waters reached on their sites because, despite the fact that the flood maps have not been updated since the last two major flooding events in 2006 and 2007, we know flood elevations have exceeded the designated areas on the maps. Mr. Iacozzi stated he will obtain this information for the Board.

Mr. Iacozzi presented a plan to the Board depicting wildlife habitat and wetland areas. He stated it has been proposed to Thibeault by their scientists to construct a wildlife habitat adjacent to the large wetland. A part of the proposal includes moving the fencing in much closer to the edge of the quarry to allow for greater access for wildlife on the outside. He also stated it has been proposed that areas be blasted out on the shelf areas of the finished quarry to allow for nesting sites for birds. Additionally, the applicant has agreed to landscape the shelves with native vegetation and berry plants that provide food for the nesting birds. Chairman Cantwell asked when the Board would see the Wildlife Report. Mr. Iacozzi responded by the end of October.

Chairman Cantwell announced that the main focus of the meeting this evening will be presentations from abutters. Mr. Cantwell polled the Board to see if the Board would allow Andrea Kenter, who is not an abutter, but has been hired by the Branch River Apartments, which do abut the project, to present first.

POLL RESULTS:

Gretchen Gott – Yes
Steve Naoum – Yes
Peter Buckingham – Yes
Jonathan Wood – Yes
Maurice Titcomb – Yes
Frank Bourque – Yes
Bill Cantwell – Yes

Ms. Kenter, representing Pegasus Management Corp, which owns Branch River Apartments, made a presentation to the Planning Board in regards to environmental concerns and potential risks. A copy of her presentation is attached to the original set of minutes on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Iacozzi responded to Ms. Kenter by stating all of Thibeault's calculations based on being in a bedrock aquifer. He stated all of their activities will be, at a minimum, 6 feet above the water table. He stated as a matter of standing, Thibeault was there first, and everyone else came into the area after they did.

John Vetne, an abutter residing at Clearwater Estates made a presentation to the Planning Board regarding dust and noise concerns. A copy of his presentation materials are attached to the original set of minutes on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Frank Bourque stated that noise and dust issues have not been ignored by the Planning Board, but have not yet been addressed. Mr. Vetne replied that this experience is new to him and the majority of the public in attendance this evening, and they are still learning how the process works.

Mr. Iacozzi stated the Statute has changed with regard to dust control. He stated employees are required to wear noise and dust monitoring equipment. Mr. Vetne responded that the applicant has constantly made references to outside groups that have responsibilities; a tactic he believes is to distract the Planning Board from Thibeault's own responsibilities. He stated that the applicant may be telling the truth with these statements, and cautioned the Board to be weary.

Steve Naoum asked if Mr. Vetne had any information regarding dust impact on civilians rather than employees. Mr. Vetne stated this is covered in page 7 of his "Testimony" document, which was submitted to the Planning Board, and is attached to the original set of minutes on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Vetne stated he has obtained, with permission, several medial letters regarding people living at Clearwater Estates. These letters identify various medical concerns for these people. Mr. Vetne submitted these letters to the Community Development Director, and are now on file in the Community Development Department office.

Gretchen Gott stated the Board has heard information coming from several sources (DES, NOAA, etc.) and suggested that it might be helpful for a work session with representatives from these agencies to explain some things and to answer some questions.

Mr. Iacozzi stated the primary reason for the excavation area still remaining unclaimed to this date is due to long negotiations. These negotiations took place for approximately two and a half years between Thibeault, The Town and the State. The topics involved were the methodology of the reclamation, areas that would be given as conservation areas, the conservation easement and structure of the ponds. These discussions were finally completed in August of 2006.

Chairman Cantwell called for a 10 minute recess at 9:05 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m. When the meeting was called back to order, the Board engaged in a public question/answer session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrea Kenter asked how crusher problems would be handled. Mr. Iacozzi stated that maintenance and repairs are not allowed to occur on site. The crusher would have to be removed from the site before any work could be done. He stated the only machinery allowed to remain on the site are ones that have been completely converted to bio-friendly fuels and lubricants.

Terry Harrison, an abutter residing at Clearwater Estates asked if the quarrying activities will cause increased runoff onto the Clearwater Estates property. Mr. Iacozzi responded by saying all runoff must be treated and contained on-site.

Don Hedman asked who monitors runoff. Mr. Iacozzi stated DES regularly monitors silt and water quality.

Dawn Mozina asked if there will be an evaluation of the public safety hazard. Chairman Cantwell replied the Board has not reached this point yet.

Nick Longo asked if company history is taken into consideration when deciding whether or not to issue a permit. Chairman Cantwell replied the company's history within the Town of Raymond is considered, unless other research and information is supplied to the Board, as is currently taking place.

Nick Longo stated Mr. Iacozzi has stated they have only two violations, when his research has uncovered 7 violations. He asked the reason for this discrepancy. Mr. Iacozzi stated 3-4 violations were for a situation where Thibeault was a contractor. The issue in question was the Belmont School District, and he explained that they were following plans designed and approved by the District. DES took exception to the construction sequencing. He stated they were reimbursed by the general contractor and the school district for the fines.

Carolyn Matthews stated that the abutters submitted their concerns regarding uncapped wells and did not hear back. She asked what was done about this. Community Development Director Creveling stated well testing has been completed, and preliminary results have come back. We are currently awaiting the final test results at this time. He also stated that the wells have all been capped. Mr. Bourque added that the applicant requested the Board look at the Quarry application before renewal of the permit. This began on July 12, at the applicant's request.

Mike Kappler asked if water would be drawn from the river for dust control, and if so, will they need a permit. Mr. Iacozzi explained that they would install a well to control dust, and not use the river. He also stated they would be using water trucks and the crusher would have spray bars at the outfall point. He estimated that 10,000 to 20,000 gallons per day would be drawn from a regular well.

Chris Mozina asked how we can be sure that perchlorates will not be used on this operation. He requested something in writing verifying this. Mr. Mozina then stated that his property line is located 100 feet from where blasting will take place. He wants to see this figure used rather than 250 feet because he lives not only in his house (250 feet away), but also on his property (property line 100 feet away).

Kevin Grace asked about the traffic impact. Mr. Iacozzi stated there are provisions in the existing permit that allow the traffic situation to be revisited if it is determined that a problem exists.

Carolyn Matthews asked what the date of the permit was which allowed the 150 truck trips per day. Mr. Iacozzi responded 2005/2006.

Chairman Cantwell closed the public comment session for the evening to allow the Board to conduct other business.

Mr. Iacozzi stated his company is amenable to selling the property in its entirety at discounted fair-market value to the Town.

Chairman Cantwell polled the Board to see if the next meeting should be scheduled for November 1 or November 8.

POLL RESULTS

Gretchen Gott – November 8

Jonathan Wood – November 8

Steve Naoum – November 8

Peter Buckingham – November 8

Maurice Titcomb – November 1

Frank Bourque – November 1

Bill Cantwell – November 1

MOTION: Frank Bourque made a motion to continue the hearing for a renewal of an excavation permit to November 8, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Steve Naoum seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION: Frank Bourque made a motion to continue the hearing for an amended excavation plan to November 8, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Gretchen Gott seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 7-0-0.

Other Business

Jonathan Wood asked if the Board will be working on any Zoning Amendments for the coming year. Frank Bourque replied the Board decided not to do anything until the Master Plan is completed. Mr. Wood stated he asks because he found a sprinkler ordinance that he would like the Board to consider working on. Community Development Director Creveling stated the Technical Review Committee still needs to discuss this before anything.

Gretchen Gott asked if the Board took an official vote on whether or not to defer zoning amendments this year, as she does not recall one.

Chairman Cantwell polled the Board on whether or not to defer zoning amendments this year.

POLL RESULTS

Gretchen Gott – No

Jonathan Wood – No
Peter Buckingham – Yes
Steve Naoum – Yes
Maurice Titcomb – Yes
Frank Bourque – Yes
Bill Cantwell - Yes

Adjournment

MOTION: Jonathan Wood made a motion to adjourn. Frank Bourque seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 7-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Price
Planning Technician