

Dummerston Development Review Board Meeting
November 18, 2014

Attending: ZA Charlotte Annis, DRB Members: Alan McBean, Beverly Kenney, Hugh Worden, Marty Forrett, Sam Griffis, Patty Walior

Also Present: Poplar Commons Residents, Depot Road Residents, Renaud Gravel Inc. employees, Duane Fletcher, Mike Renaud, Cory Frehsee, Engineer, attorney Chris Dugan, Zeke Goodband

Meeting called to order at 6:30

*Housekeeping:

Minutes from the October 17, 2014 meeting approved.

Charlotte reported there is nothing pending for December.

No old business to report

Hearing opened at 6:35 in the Dummerston Town Office, Chaired by Hugh Worden

This is a 2 year permit review for permits # 3308 & 3309 to Renaud Gravel.

Hugh read the public notice of the meeting from 10-27-14

This meeting was preceded by site visit on both Monday 11-17-14 and a second visit Tuesday 11-18-14.

Hugh reported that the only new interested parties could be those that had moved into abutting properties after original permit was issued. The permit can not be appealed at this point. Beverly Kenney recused herself due to possible business conflict. Claudia Teechman, president of the Poplar Commons Homeowners Association inquired about a resident not receiving notification of meeting. She is a newer resident, not sure why she didn't get one.

Hugh reminded everyone that this is the second review of permits #3308 & 3309 issued to Renaud Gravel and the purpose is to determine if they are adhering to conditions the DRB set forth in the permit. Cory Frehsee handed in an updated drilling plan from Key Drilling. He reported that there are no violations being made to the permit. Things at the pit are running smoothly and safely. They believe that they are being good neighbors and are willing to make changes to mitigate possible concerns/impacts on residents. Changes they have made to show good faith include: adding water to the crush and screening operation to cut down on dust, modified traffic circulation, installed motion detectors on trucks rather than back up alarms, they will be changing the blasting from north/south to east/west, they thought that they had a good plan for blasting notification however are realizing it could be improved upon. They have been monitoring every blast and will continue to do so. Any dead trees/shrubs will be replaced. The berm they have made is approximately 5-5 1/2 feet (requirement is 4-6 feet). Cory said that he believes they have followed all Act 250 rules and standard practice within the industry.

Claudia Teechman has 2 main concerns. The residents quality of life (dust, shock of blasts, noise) and resale of their homes. The blasting at this point is occurring where it's not abutting their property and they are concerned about what it will be like when blasting is even closer. They don't feel an adequate job was done with the monitoring and it wasn't an accurate indication of impact on their homes. They also believe that notification should be more specific so they can be better prepared.

Bill Ortlieb, a resident of Station RD/Winterbell Drive has concerns about the impact of the blasting on his well. He said that after every blast he has discolored water for days. They have not been able to drink, do laundry or dishes. He does feel traffic has improved.

Judy Pollica has reported that there has been rock flying after blasts, can't open windows because of dust (did say that it had gotten better since the water has been added to crusher), blasting scares her animals.

Tina Kane and Wendy Brooks reported that their well went dry in 2013 and had to have hydrofracking done. However first blast wasn't until 2014. Tina is also concerned about impact on their house's foundation and structure.

Ed Bell, Winterbell resident has no complaints.

Mike Renaud reports that blasting has ceased for the season and will begin in February or March of 2015, depending upon weather. As they have changed the blasting direction he asks that when blasting resumes if it's worse residents let him know ASAP. He wants to be a good neighbor and is willing to meet with residents to hear and work on concerns they have. Steve Casabona requests an independent monitoring company be used. Mike stated that they went with a very reputable company that has been in business for 20 years. Tina Kane asked if it would be possible for residents to meet with the new monitoring company so that they can understand the process of what happens and why. He would be willing to work with residents when hiring a new company. Chris Vinci asked about when the drilling moves closer to homes, will there be more impact? Alan responded that probably there would be little or no change from what they have experienced, possible that it might even be less. Alan asked about changing the blasting pattern next year? Claudia requests that one thing at a time be changed to more accurately determine what is working and what isn't. Example not to change blasting direction and blast pattern at the same time.

The meeting ended with the plan of Poplar Commons Homeowners Assoc. meeting and electing a few representatives to then meet with Mike R. to work together for the good of all. The big issues to be addressed first are notification, monitoring and water (wells). Possibly fly rock and noise.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Walior, DRB member