

# Minutes

## Pittsfield Planning Board

### Meeting of March 9, 2020

The Pittsfield Planning Board met at 7:05 pm on March 9, 2020 at the Council Chambers at the Pittsfield Municipal Building, 112 Somerset Avenue, Pittsfield, Maine.

Members present were: Jan Laux, Anna Bockis, Brent Newhouse, Ron Watson, Tom Cote, and Stanley Short. Members Absent: Morris Pollard, Simone Engelhardt and Royce Sposato. Also, present Harold Sherwood Jr. and Cory Verrill of Cianbro, Councilman Peter Logiodice, Councilman Debra Billings and Building Inspector Steve Seekins.

1. Chair **Jan Laux** opened the meeting at 7:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. Alternate member **Ron Watson** and **Stanley Short** were authorized to vote due to the absence **Simone Engelhardt, Morris Pollard and Royce Sposato.**
3. **Adoption of the Minutes:** of the Meeting of February 10, 2020 and the Sign Work Group Meeting of February 21, 2020

Motion by **Stanley Short** and seconded by **Tom Cote** to adopt the minutes of the February 10, 2020 Planning Meeting and the February 21, 2020 Sign Work Group Meeting.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

#### 4. Public Hearing: None

#### 5. Old Business:

- a. Discussion on updating the Sludge Management Ordinances. *Planning Board Members please review chapters 9-B and 9-C of the town ordinances in advance of this meeting.* Discuss suggestions made by the Sludge Work Group meeting held prior to this meeting. Set date for next meeting.

Chair **Jan Laux** lead the discussion asking **Tom Cote** to recap the Sludge Work Group meeting that was held just prior to this meeting. **Tom Cote** advised the plans is to get more information from Casella Organics on the contents of the products they sell. **Jan Laux** asked of the framers in this area how many was using sludge. **Tom Cote** responded there are very few with-in a 20-mile radius. **Tom Cote** advised he could not put a name to farmers that use sludge, **Tom Cote** expects there are a few, none in the town of Pittsfield. **Tom Cote** states that as far as the other products wood ash and algae fiber there are large volumes being used around the state. Some in Pittsfield. **Jan Laux** stated so the recommendations from the Work Group is that Steve Seekins get more information from Casella Organics. **Stanley Short** expressed concerns on who does the testing on products from the paper mills. **Stanley Short** stated the representatives form Casella seem to disagree who does the testing. **Stanley Short** states his concerns stem from working 18 years in paper mills. It was discussed that having an approved list of products would alleviate the need for individual site approval.

- b. Review proposed changes of the Sign Ordinance suggested by the Sign Work Group.

**Jan Laux** asked Steve Seekins to start the discussion on revising the sign ordinance. Steve Seekins stated he prepared a draft sign ordinance and had made suggestions to correct some issues with existing sections and added a section on traffic directional signs. The problem being it is almost like having 2 ordinances now. Possible having an applicant choose which one. Steve Seekins advised he had emailed the draft earlier to the board members. Steve Seekins asked if anyone had read it and received no response from the members. Steve Seekins advised he needs help in drafting the ordinance and plans seek advice form KVCOG and finally the town attorney. Steve Seekins asked if there is really any need for all the verbiage in the existing ordinance? Could we get by with the wording of last section of the draft entitled Traffic Directional Signs? **Jan Laux** asked Harold Sherwood for his comments. Harold Sherwood stated his companies needs are similar to that of hospital with the need for ladders signs. **Jan Laux** asked what is Cianbro's time frame was installing the signs. Harold Sherwood advised he would like to install them in May. Harold Sherwood stated he is more concerned on

getting the ordinance so it benefits Cianbro and others as apposed to meeting a time frame. The board members recommended that Traffic Directional Signs not exceed 32” horizontally and 96” vertically. The board also recommended that the “Traffic Directional Signs” section of the draft ordinance supplied by Steve Seekins be changed to read as follows:

### **Traffic Directional Signs**

**Allowed Traffic Directional Signs: Are free standing signs that directs traffic to businesses locations or uses. These signs shall not advertise a product or a service. Signs mounded to a building are also considered “Traffic Directional Signs” identifying a business or use in the building, one sign per use. These signs may be placed off premise on private property or a leased site. The signs shall not be lighted and shall not obstruct the view of traffic at intersections. The sign shall be installed and maintained in good readable repair by the owner of the sign. Traffic Directional Signs shall not exceed 32 inches horizontally and 96 inches in height.**

**Applicants for sign permits must choose between Commercial Signs and Building Mounted Traffic Directional Signs. It is not allowable to have both.**

Harold Sherwood was concerned of the condition above that states applicants must choose between. This would limit being able to show contact information. Steve Seekins stated that would be controlled by the definition section of town ordinances for Commercial Signs and Traffic Directional Signs. It was recommended that pole signs in all districts shall not exceed 20 feet in height as measured from grade to the top of sign.

- c. Comprehensive Plan: Discuss and prepare for the joint meeting of The Town Council and the Planning Board.

Councilman Debra Billings requested that future reference to address the Comprehensive Plan read “Implying the plan’s suggestions and recommendations”.

**Jan Laux** announced that the Town Council as agreed to have a work section meeting with the Planning Board on April 28, 2020. The goal of this meeting is to have 2 or 3 items or issues that related to the comprehensive plan or where should the town be in 10 to 20 years from now. **Jan Laux** states he plans in May and June to have a couple of community meeting, open to the public, conducted by someone not from the Planning Board or the Town Council and preferable not from the town. **Jan Laux** lead a general discussion on the need for housing that would attract people to move to Pittsfield and to accommodate the needs of senior citizens.

Board members agreed that Steve Seekins should submit the draft ordinance to KVCOG for assistance in working.

### **6. New Business: None**

### **7. Discussion items:**

**Brent Newhouse** brought up a discussion on the town’s **PITTSFIELD ECONOMIC EXPANSION CORPORATION: (PEEC)** **Brent Newhouse** had questions on what was the function of this organization and explained he just found out it exists. Councilman Debra Billing briefly explained PEEC function and suggested that PEEC member Mike Gary would be a source for additional information.

### **8. Adjournment:**

Motion by **Tom Cote** seconded by **Anna Bockis** to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

Respectfully submitted by: Steve Seekins, Building Inspector

*Minutes are a synopsis of a meeting. For more detail, please go to [www.pittsfield.org](http://www.pittsfield.org) and click on Town Meeting Videos to listen to videos of Planning Board Meetings and other Board/Committee Meetings.*