

Town of Randolph

Planning Board Minutes

September 5, 2019

Members Present: John Scarinza, John Turner, Robert Ross, and Tim Mather

Members Excused: Roberta Arbree

Public: Laura Brockett, Jamie Maddock, Pat Boisclair, Michael Murphy, Kevin Rousseau, Jen Barton-Scarinza, Ivan Downs, Auvern Kenison, Barbara and Bill Arnold, William Demers, Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun, John Koziol, Union Leader, WMUR, and others.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by John Scarinza.

PUBLIC HEARING

John Scarinza opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 pm for comments regarding the proposed Memorial to be erected on Randolph Community Forest land at the west end of town, south of Rt. 2, to honor the seven motorcycle accident victims who were killed on June 21, 2019. Scarinza informed the group that there would be no decision made tonight, that the purpose of the hearing was to hear comments and concerns. A decision will be made at the next Forest Commission meeting, which will be the second Wednesday in October.

John Scarinza advised the public that the Commander of the Gorham American Legion met with the Board of Selectmen to propose the idea. Since the site is on Community Forest land, it is overseen by the Randolph Forest Commission. The Planning Board is responsible for holding public hearings for the Forest Commission. Scarinza explained that the Forest Commission has activity managers for each activity on the forest land, such as the RMC for the trails. If approved, the Gorham American Legion would be the activity manager for this memorial and would maintain the site. The Forest Commission and the American Legion have agreed that this would be a respectful place to reflect on the loss of a loved one, and would not be an event site. Both groups also have a concern for safety, and as the site currently sits, it is not safe. Scarinza advised that he met with the NH Department of Transportation, and their suggestion was to move the site further back from the roadway and provide safe parking. The curb cut permit for the road that leads to the gravel pit will need to be refreshed.

Commander Murphy from the American Legion shared the photo of the proposed memorial, which will be approximately 5 feet high. The map provided at the meeting depicts the proposed 5 parking spaces, and the path to the memorial, which will be approximately 75-100 feet long and 4 feet wide. Murphy advised that a local contractor has offered to donate his time and equipment to the project and material will be paid for from donations made to the American

Legion. There will be no cost to the town. The American Legion had hoped to complete the project in October, but are now planning for spring.

Laura Brockett asked about maintenance in the winter, and Commander Murphy advised it would not be maintained for winter use. Weather permitting, the site would close after Veteran's Day, and would re-open before Memorial Day. A resident asked about the current crosses and other items at the site and was advised that everything there would be removed and saved for the families. Commander Murphy advised that they will collect items left at the site on an ongoing basis to keep the site pristine. A resident asked about overflow parking and John Scarinza advised they are hoping that the 5 spaces provided will be enough most of the time, and they will have to plan for other parking on days that there are more visitors. A resident asked about any plans by DOT to widen the road, and Scarinza advised this is not a plan at this time, however if parking becomes an issue, no parking signs could be installed. They are hoping to install informational signs on Route 2 that there is a Memorial Area ahead to notify motorists. Jamie Maddock shared concerns about safety, parking, and regular monitoring of the site, which were addressed, and also added a concern for sanitation. Commander Murphy stated that this has been discussed and they are willing to have a portable toilet in the summer months for visitors. A resident asked if the area would be assigned a name or 911 address, and was advised that it would be assigned an address, however it does already come up on GPS. The name given will probably be the "Fallen Seven Memorial".

At 6:45 pm, John Scarinza called for a 15 minute recess, and advised that due to the misprint of the time in the article for the public hearing, it will be kept open for others who may arrive at 7:00 pm. Scarinza advised that written comments received from the Maddock and Hudson families, and well as written comments received from Edith Tucker, would be given to the Forest Commission to review. Any others wishing to submit written comments can do so up until the next Forest Commission meeting in October.

At 7:00 pm, John Scarinza recapped the discussion for those who just arrived. Robert Ross suggested that trees be planted along the field adjacent to Route 2 so that the Memorial would not be visible from the road, to discourage motorists from stopping there. Barbara Arnold shared concerns for safety, as the access from Route 2 is not visible. Bill Arnold stated that he would like to see a wider breakdown lane through that stretch of road for safety. It was suggested that residents attend the September 19 meeting in Berlin for the NHDOT 10-year plan to voice their concerns. A resident voiced concerns that hundreds or thousands of people are killed every day on our roads and memorials are not erected for each of them, and also pointed out that the victims for whom the memorial is proposed, were not citizens of Randolph, or connected to Randolph, and the town forest is not the right place for a memorial. Auvern Kenison agreed with her and suggested that the vote for the memorial should go to town meeting or a special town meeting as they are proposing to use town land. Kenison also asked about a picture he recently saw of steel motorcycle sculptures that were proposed for the site. Scarinza and Murphy both stated that this was not the vision that the American Legion has for the site and it would not be allowed. William Demers shared concerns about the location and the junction on

Route 2 and does not want to see anyone injured while visiting the memorial. A flashing light at the junction was suggested, and other residents stated they would not want a flashing light at the site. A question was asked about the light for the flag, and was advised it would be a solar light. Concerns were raised about the light for the flag and it detracting from the dark sky, and another resident suggested that the flag be omitted from the memorial site. A resident asked about the hours the site would be open to the public and it was suggested that there be a sign informing visitors that it would be open dawn to dusk and that no overnight parking or camping be allowed. Another resident shared a concern that a sign of do's and don'ts would not be tasteful, but others felt that there may be a way to word the sign that would say everything in a tasteful way. A resident asked if there should be rocks placed along the gravel road to prevent visitors from driving on the field, and it was suggested this could be done at a later date if there was an issue. A resident asked about a separate smaller monument for first responders who were at the accident scene, and John Scarinza advised that benches at the site has been suggested for this. A resident asked how other requests for memorials would be handled, as there have been several other fatal accidents along Route 2. Scarinza stated that the only reason a hearing is being held for this one is that it is town land, other accidents have occurred on state or privately owned land. Another resident shared his concern that a memorial on town land for a tragic accident is totally inappropriate, and if the American Legion would like to erect a memorial it should be on their property. Auvern Kenison asked if this would affect any rights-of-way on the town forest and John Scarinza advised it would not. Scarinza also advised that a parking area at this location was already being considered, as this is a popular spot for bird watching, the rail trail, and for accessing the Crystal Mine Trail. Kenison asked if a gate would be considered and Scarinza advised they were already discussing this, and just need to decide where it should be installed.

The public hearing was closed by John Scarinza at 7:57 pm. Written comments will continue to be accepted in writing until the Forest Commission meeting in October.

Minutes of August 1, 2019 – On a motion from John Turner with a second from Robert Ross, members voted to accept the minutes as presented.

Land Use Ordinance Amendments

Tara Bamford passed out copies of the proposed reorganization of the Land Use Ordinances. Bamford asked the Board for permission to contact Attorney Fillmore about the reorganization of the document and the wording on the ballot article, which the Board approved. Bamford also passed out draft copies of the Shoreland Protection and Wetlands Ordinances to review. Bamford asked the board to consider which pieces of the scenic design guidelines they would like to include in the performance standards in the Steep Slope ordinance for the next meeting.

In reviewing the proposed additions and deletions to the Land Use Ordinances, the Board discussed accessory dwelling units. John Scarinza pointed out that many lots in town have detached dwelling units, and Tara confirmed that there is nothing in the ordinances to prevent multiple dwellings on one lot. This is something the Board will need to consider. Bamford reviewed the rest of the draft, including adding the definition of water setbacks to the front of the document, changes to signs

and lighting, temporary residences, and the removal of impact fees. Bamford asked the board to review the additions and deletions and bring comments to the October meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on October 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment: On a motion by John Turner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli A. Fortin

September 6, 2019