

Dresden Planning Board
P. O. Box 30
Dresden, Maine 04342
Meeting minutes for Monday, February 03, 2020

Present - Jeff Pierce, Jay Cummings, Linda Biden, Peter Elvin, Steve Stone and Russell Peckham.

Dan Hanley was absent.

Others present – Shari Lilly (recording secretary).

Jeff opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

ITEM #1 – Review minutes of December 16, 2019 – (No meetings were held in January.) Russell motioned to accept as written; Steve seconded. Motion approved by show of hands of those present and voting.

ITEM #2 – Old Business – *a.)* Steve asked if the Selectboard has gone further with the notice to Joe Lemar in regard to the issues with Calista's Vista. Jeff said not as of January 06. He feels they have other more pressing issues they are dealing with, such as the Beasley gravell pit appeal and the resignation of the 1st Selectman, Trudy Foss, who is done at the end of February.

b.) Jeff mentioned that the Budget Review Committee needs to fill a vacancy. He has heard that David Brown who lives on the Alexander Road is interested. He also said the Board of Appeals is in need of filling a vacancy.

c.) Jeff said it doesn't appear we will have any specific business in the near future. He said this is when we use the slow times for going over ordinances. One of those could be the recreational marijuana issue – going through the state definitions to see if we want to present anything to the Selectboard. Steve said perhaps adopt the definitions and it may behoove us to incorporate them into our ordinances. It's not a matter of if we will need to address this, but 'when' because we know it's coming; especially the Hemp. Doing this will give us an upper hand for the future. Right now you can do the medical marijuana and hemp. We can regulate where they can or can't be – such as not near schools, etc. The Board members will check on the information to bring to the next meeting.

d.) Linda asked what has been happening with Joe Lemar. Jeff said nothing as far as he knows. There has been a couple of developers that have looked at the properties, but nothing has been said. The costs for the underground power and roadway could come to over \$200,000. Then they would have to figure out about the 'Common Area'. It would be a bad idea for the town to sell the property at this time.

ITEM #3 – New Business – *a.)* Work on the marijuana definitions.

b.) Linda said that her cattle business was listed under 'Animal Husbandry' instead of Agriculture, but asked if it should actually be under Agriculture since we promote such businesses here in this town. Jeff said that's a good question. Linda will do research on this, as well as checking the ordinances. Jeff said there are many different issues involved with it; such as medicated feed, living near water areas, types of animals and the effect on the environment & surroundings. Peter asked what happened at the former Journey's End

Farm as that appears to no longer be functioning. Jeff said the former owners who had been doing the animal farming there sold out and now it belongs to another couple.

c.) Jay asked if the folks that are cutting the trees near him have to get special permits. Jeff said they have 'harvesting permits' and have gone through a State Forester. Jay was curious as he would like to do some timber cutting on his property if it's possible.

ITEM #4 – Other Business – a.) Jeff reported that the town will be getting estimates to take down the house they purchased on the property at 540 Gardiner Road. It is not at all liveable due to mold and asbestos. Linda asked what's happening with the property next to that (Ships' Chow Hall). Jeff said it seems that although it had become tax-acquired, the former owner, Lester Morse, still has a claim to the property, so he will be given the proper notices from the town as a lien holder. This will give him a couple of months to either settle the amount owed or it will go into foreclosure. Jeff explained that sometimes this happens as people are not required to register property of interest. It's also hard to get a deed because most places give quit claim deeds and if a lien holder comes to claim it, they have the right to do so. Sometimes it can be up to 7 years. Peter asked how you can put a septic system in where the land is so wet. Jeff explained the possibilities and about the water district in town.

ITEM #5 – – Adjournment – Linda motioned; Russell seconded. So voted at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Lilly (Recording Secretary)