

September 11, 2013

**PINE PLAINS PLANNING BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
7:30 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE: Don Bartles, Chairman
Ken Mecciarello
Steve Patterson
Sarah Jones
Kate Osofsky
Peter Salerno, Alternate

ALSO PRESENT: Sandra David, Town Board liaison
Drew Weaver, Building Inspector

ABSENT: John Forelle
Vikki Soracco
Louisa Grassi, Alternate

Chairman Bartles called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and called for a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11.

TANAWANDA ROD & GUN CLUB: The applicant was represented by Eric Hanson of Meltz Lumber. This is a preliminary meeting for a proposed special use permit to allow a timber harvest for property located at 468 Hicks Hill Road. Hanson stated the applicant is looking to do a selective timber harvest on the property. Hanson stated he is the forester working with the applicant. Bartles asked if there were any specific areas. Hanson stated it is throughout the whole property. Bartles asked if they would be taking select timbers out of the buffers and Hanson replied yes. Hanson stated the goal is to get a little more sunlight on the forest floor to attract the wildlife habitat that is dwindling. Bartles asked in which direction the trucks would be hauling along Hicks Hill Road. Hanson stated he didn't look into that. Hanson stated he normally lets the truck driver determine which way is best. Hanson asked if there was a specific way that the Board would like him to go. Bartles stated that road goes through three towns, Pine Plains, Milan and Stanfordville, depending on how you go. Bartles stated he is not familiar with the road conditions in the other direction. Bartles stated he is asking so they can have other Towns weigh in with their comments or concerns. Bartles stated typically when the Board handles logging issues there is an initial presentation, questions are asked for a general description of what will be done and then there is a notification requirement for all adjacent property owners. Bartles stated the best way to do that is to advertise the public hearing. Bartles stated

September 11, 2013

the public hearing will be held at the next meeting and will be advertised in advance. Bartles stated if there were a chance of it going through Milan or Stanford, he would like to get their comment about the road situation. Hanson asked if the Board prefers they come down through Pine Plains and onto Route 199 because he has no issue doing that. Hanson stated then he would be strictly in Pine Plains and wouldn't need to have comments from other towns. Hanson stated he did the cut on Forelle's property but was not before the Board for that application. Bartles stated the forester should be familiar with the Town's requirements. Hanson stated yes. Hanson asked what happens if there is a public outcry and people say they don't want it to happen. Bartles stated the Board listens to the reasons why they wouldn't want it to happen and if they come up with reasons the Board was not aware of, then a more in-depth environmental review would have to be done. Bartles stated there would have to be concrete reasons and not just someone saying they liked the way it looked and didn't want it done. Bartles stated this is a potential Blanding's turtle site according to Hudsonia so when the Board does its SEQR they will have to discuss this. Bartles stated no one will be able to say they can't do it or deny them the right to do an appropriate logging but there may be things that have to be mitigated. Hanson stated he dealt with turtles on a property in Hyde Park recently and was given specific times to harvest to avoid the turtle mating season. Jones stated there might be mitigation issues. Bartles stated it would be mitigation rather than denial. Discussion followed. The public hearing was set for the October meeting. Bartles stated that all the adjacent property owners will be notified and it will be published in the newspaper. Bartles stated after the Board hears public comment they will do the SEQR. Hanson asked if only adjacent property owners were allowed to speak at the hearing. Bartles stated the notice usually says all residents of the Town of Pine Plains. Jones stated that anyone could speak at a public hearing. Bartles stated that anyone can speak but it is only published in the official local newspaper. Hanson asked what newspaper. Bartles replied The Millerton News. Bartles asked Hanson if there were any DEC requirements they have to meet. Hanson stated there are not. Hanson asked if the representatives of the gun club have to attend the meeting. Bartles asked if Hanson has written permission to speak for them. Hanson stated they didn't fill out the paper because a representative was at the meeting with him. Bartles stated that the paper must be filled out if no representative comes to the public hearing. Bartles asked what their estimate was on the number of board feet that would be taken out. Hanson replied between 150 and 200. Bartles asked how long a period of

September 11, 2013

time they expected it to take. Hanson replied it's a weather related issue and one of the stipulations is that there is no harvesting during hunting season. Bartles asked what the DEC's policy is on the Indiana bats. Hanson stated he has no idea. Hanson stated he looked but didn't see anything. Bartles stated he thought there might be an issue with timing but wanted to know what the DEC had to say. Hanson stated if there is an issue they will adjust to it. Bartles asked if Hanson spoke with the Highway Superintendent. Hanson stated no. Bartles asked him to do that. Bartles stated there was a clause in Forelle's approval in which the homeowner agreed to accept the responsibility for any damage to the highway. Bartles stated the Board would have that wording for the applicant. Hanson stated if the Board agrees, he would like Meltz Lumber to be responsible instead of the property owner. Bartles stated that he this will be part of the discussion at the next meeting. Hanson asked if there are any specifics about the volume of traffic going up and down the road. Bartles stated no. Bartles stated he would be concerned about coming out a 90% angle and tearing the asphalt up and tracking onto the road. Bartles stated these are standard issues that will be discussed. Bartles stated that they should be thinking about volume on a low volume road. Bartles stated this is a question that will come up from the public and wanted Hanson to be aware. Hanson stated his trucks have steerable rear axles. He stated when they are coming out they drop the rear axle and it steers and doesn't drag across the pavement. He stated that this would be a requirement of all trucks by 2015.

OTHER BUSINESS: Osofsky made a motion to accept the August 2013 minutes; second by Patterson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bartles stated that Proper has done some research on recreation fees for other towns. Bartles went over the list to date with the Board. Bartles stated hopefully we can get information from a few more towns so that a presentation can be made to the Town Board.

Bartles asked if there were any comments on the Mosher and Fitzgerald/Murphy resolutions. None.

Bartles asked if anyone wanted to go and look at the Hicks Hill Road property. Discussion followed. Bartles stated to look on the application and look on parcel access. Bartles stated if anyone decides they want to see it he would make arrangements.

September 11, 2013

Motion by Osofsky to adjourn; second by Jones. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Nancy E. Proper
Secretary

Don Bartles, Jr.
Chairman