

Town of Washington

Planning Board Summary

January 10, 2023

Attendance: Steve Ocean (Chair), Samuel Collins, Micah Nelson (Alt), Kristie Grant, Seth Anderson, Kate Grinnell (VC/S), Corey Fortin (CEO)

Absent: Erick Anderson (Alt.)

Public Attendees: Deborah Turcotte, Josh Teel, Sharon Turner, Chad Flinkstrom, Bill Goggin, Mike Banaitis, Charlotte Henderson, Tessa Rosenberry, Davis Saltonstall, Mike Belanger

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

After reviewing the December summary Sam Collins motions to approve. Kate Grinnell 2nd, all votes in favor, the summary is approved.

Pre-application CMP:

Mike Banaitis representing CMP presents a proposed upgrade to the power lines running through several towns linking Coopers Mills to Highland substations. The portion that runs through Washington is approximately .4 miles. The upgrades will remove ten existing poles and replace with five new poles. The new poles will be taller, and it is because of this change that brings them before the Planning Board. The lines will also be replaced to meet current standards, but no service interruption is anticipated. Tree maintenance will occur to accommodate the new equipment within the existing right of way. There is .28 acres of wetlands where 4 poles will be removed, timber mats will be used, and no new poles will be installed in the area. DEP permits have been applied for and abutters have been contacted. CMP would like to start the project in June, and it will take an estimated 14 months. The site is not easily reached from Washington, work crews will be using an access coming in from Jefferson. Corey Fortin will do a site review and take photos for the Board before the February meeting. Seth Anderson asked about any noise that might disrupt the neighborhood. CMP will follow all ordinances and no late work is proposed. Kate Grinnell asked about the impact on the wildlife. CMP stated it will replace old platforms and leave nesting materials at the base of the new poles. Corey Fortin will do research on the permitting fee because there is no square footage to base it on but notes the application is complete.

Steve Ocean motions to accept the application as complete, Seth Anderson 2nd. All members in favor, none opposed, the application is accepted as complete. The next step is to hold a public hearing and move forward from there.

Pre-application Scrap Dogs:

Tessa Rosenberry and Davis Saltonstall own and operate Scrap Dogs, a community compost facility based out of Rockland. They currently work with local farmers to compost the scraps collected from local homes and businesses. The business has grown and they are proposing re-purposing the existing Mariners pad in the George Hall pit. (72 Jefferson Rd.) It was originally constructed to store algae fiber but is no longer in use. Scrap Dogs would be renting the space for the purpose of composting initially with the potential for expansion into oyster shells and/or black soldier flies. Kristie Grant asked about how the composting was done and how the smell might attract wildlife. The food scraps would be mixed with wood chips and/or manure and maintained by turning with a tractor. Once in active decomposition the heat generated by the pile will deter wildlife and that process will also address the

smell. It will take approximately a week for the process to reach temperatures needed. There is a hydrant onsite for safety but if properly maintained the risk is minimal. Seth Anderson asked about the purpose and process for the oyster shells. Davis Saltonstall explained that the shells would be stored separately and once broken down used in shoreland restoration. Scrap Dogs are a DEP licensed composter and have submitted the permits for this proposal. Sam Collins noted that they are currently a subscriber and may need to recuse. Steve Ocean reviews the ordinance and location of the proposed site. George Halls pit lies in Planned Development zoning and the ordinance on commercial agriculture specifically includes composting. Corey Fortin questions how the manure would be managed, stored, and if any spreading would be occurring. Davis stated that no spreading would be done and if obtained manure would be used within 8 weeks of delivery. Steve Ocean asked about the lease terms. The lease is two years from the date of approval and the agreement is already in place. Kate Grinnell pointed out that when Mariners had the pad installed it was a new build and since the proposed use is the same and are in the ordinances as an approved use, is site review necessary? After brief discussion the Board members determined that it was not needed as long as the DEP issues the proper permits.

Sam Collins motions to accept that no site review needed pending permits, Steve Ocean 2nd, all in favor.

- It was later discovered that they needed to be under the Sludge ordinance as per communication 1/17/23 and will be going forward with public hearing and coordination with Code enforcement to be within the appropriate standards.

Sharon Turner asked Davis Saltonstall if they planned on continuing to work with Bo Lait farm and if any service would be offered in Washington. He said that they would, but the new site would relieve some of the congestion and would still be a potential source for manure going forward. Tessa Rosenberry said that for the moment drop off sites would probably be the most likely way to offer the service in town.

CEO report

Corey Fortin reports that any of the possible marijuana projects have not had any new activity.

Kate Grinnell announces she will be running for Selectmen's Board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Hassanein