

**TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND
PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
Weds., Sept. 7, 2016
Groveton PD/Ambulance Bldg. - Meeting Room
10 Station Square
Groveton, NH
7:00 P.M.**

Board Members present: Addy Hall, Al Rossetto, Jeffrey St. Cyr, Jim Weagle
Others present: Sam Oakes, Elaine Gray, Mike Stirling, Rebecca St. Cyr - Recorder

J. Weagle, Acting Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

1. MINUTES of Aug. 3, 2016 Meeting

Motion to approve the Aug 3, 2016 minutes by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: A. Hall, All in Favor 4-0

2. Michael Stirling – Update on Former Mill Properties

Mike Stirling gave an update on the former mill properties:

Jean Beland has finished his business plan for a wood pellet manufacturing facility. Everything has been approved by the State for the financing, but needs to come up with a little equity before it goes through. Stirling said they will be moving Beland up to the east end of the site, due to other opportunities.

As of tomorrow, a company is signing a lease and will start moving in on Monday. They are going into a section of the big warehouse until a new building can be built. Stirling said we would like to put up a building on the pad between the Co-Gen and office. It will be approx. 30,000 sq. ft. and that's where they want to put the company that's signing the lease. They have been working on the scale shack, it will be ready to go. The engineers for the water projects may be using it. When that's finished, we will be moving into the main office building to start redoing it, so that it's enclosed.

Right now the new company is using 15,000 sq. ft. for storage, they anticipate needing an additional 40,000 – 70,000 sq. ft., which will come with quite a few jobs. This is in addition to the water treatment company that's still coming. The big challenge now is the weather, there is a short window to try and get some things done. For now, it's the office building and the warehouse's. If something breaks free soon, then they want to start the building on the pad.

Stirling said they also want to get the W/S project started. We are hoping to have the bids posted and awarded over the next few weeks. EDA would not allow it prior to the grant being awarded.

Addy Hall asked about NSA and the add that was in the paper. Stirling said they are company that's signing the lease on 9/8. They are a fabricator and machine shop. They have approx. 170,000 sq. feet. in St. Johnsbury, VT. They are not moving the business here, but are

expanding to approx.. 250,000 sq. ft. They provide high end CNC machining; they are specialty oriented. The ad in the paper is to see if they can get the people they need. The attraction of Groveton is there will be a solid employment base to choose from. Their first choice was Littleton, but can't get the employee's. The Board further discussed. Stirling said they will be a company that will probably have 30-40 jobs with benefits, good wages, etc.

The technology and opportunity for us in Groveton is fantastic. Stirling feels we have some unique opportunities. Once he can get a building up, he feels that it will be filled over a 12-month period.

Al Rossetto said permits may need to be pulled. J. Weagle commented that if they are just leasing the property – the permits that Stirling has will cover the work being done right now. If the owner of the property changes, then new permits would be required.

Stirling said they have some irons in the fire and they are starting to get hot!!

J. Weagle asked if he has talked with anyone from Cumberland Farms; Stirling has not talked with anyone. Al Rossetto asked Stirling if he has heard from Northern Pass. Stirling said he has not and he hasn't approached them either. The Board further discussed.

Discussion ensued regarding the cell tower, the Balsams Project, the W/S project on the mill site and other issues.

The Board continued discussion about the article in the paper re: NSA Job Fair September 20 & 22 – 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm at North Country Family Restaurant. There is a need to get the word out about it to: WMCC, Granite State, Littleton High School, WMRHS and GHS. We need to show some enthusiasm to support and promote through the Select Board to show the Town is supportive.

Motion from the Planning Board to the Selectmen to reach out to the Company (NSA) by: Al Rossetto
2nd by: A. Hall, All in Favor 4-0

J. Weagle offered to do this.

3. Any Other Business to Come Before the Board

A copy of the "as built" plan has been received from Prima America.

Received a copy of a driveway permit for a motor cycle repair shop at the old Dupuis store.

No further business was discussed.

Motion to adjourn by: Al Rossetto
2nd by: A. Hall, All in Favor 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.