

AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD
March 3, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Travis P. Ward, Chairman
Violet E. Baldwin
David A. Chase
Michael J. Morassi
Mark R. Paleologopoulos

ALSO PRESENT:
Deborah S. Dachos
Pamela R. Kerr

Mr. Ward called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. REVISION TO PLAN – Zack’s Estates – Retaining Wall and Grading – Russo

John Tomasheski of Ecotec Environmental Associates was in attendance to present this revised plan for the removal of the retaining wall and guardrail that was shown on the approved Definitive Plan for Zack’s Estates. He explained that with the removal of the retaining wall and guardrail the grading was adjusted and now shows a 5:1 slope. Mr. Russo was in attendance and stated that the slope will be planted with grass, shrubs and trees to minimize the maintenance. Mr. and Mrs. Petrucci, the direct abutters who have accepted a portion of this land from Mr. Russo stated that they favor this change and prefer not to have a guardrail next to them. Mr. Ward asked if there was any provision for runoff. Mr. Tomasheski explained that the area is essentially level for 12’ to 13’ off the curb and that no ponding would occur.

Motion was made by Mr. Chase and seconded by Ms. Baldwin to approve the revision to the Definitive Plan of Zack’s Estates, more specifically, removal of retaining wall and grading as shown on the plan prepared by Ecotec Environmental Associates.

VOTE 5-0

2. FORM A – Meadow Street – Valenti

Mr. Valenti’s representative requested to withdraw this plan as they are working on obtaining additional land from an abutter.

Motion was made by Mr. Chase and seconded by Ms. Baldwin to accept the withdrawal of the Valenti Form A on Meadow Street.

VOTE 5-0

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 17, 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Paleologopoulos and seconded by Ms. Baldwin to approve the minutes of February 17, 2011 as written.

VOTE 4-0-1 (Baldwin abstained)

4. DISCUSSION – zoning

Mr. Ward had asked members to draft some questions they feel should be asked when talking to the various Town entities regarding the Board's effort to review and revise the Zoning Bylaws. He stated that he would like members to "pair up" and schedule times to meet with: zoning review committee members; Board of Appeals members; Building Inspector; Town Engineer; and Town Solicitor. This would allow the Board members to gather separately the ideas of those Town representatives. Mr. Chase suggested that the Board now set a timeline on their zoning review effort. Ms. Dachos stated that once the final approval by the State is given on the request for technical assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, it is a one year project. The PVPC will do a critical analysis of the Zoning Bylaws and then it will be up to the Board or the Town to act on implementing any revisions. In the meantime, Mr. Paleologopoulos agreed to formalize the questions that were prepared and Ms. Dachos will formalize a list of Town members to interview. This matter will be discussed again at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.