

GRAFTON PLANNING BOARD

Regular Meeting .

Monday, December 18, 2023 *AP*

Pledge to the Flag

Call to Order

Roll Call:

Member Martha Goss, Member Owen Grandjean, Chairman Withcuskey, Member Art Surprise, Member Jim Goyer

Public Hearing 6:50 – Babcock Lake Rd. Double lot, split into two single lots, certified mailing to all neighbors. Double lot will be split back into it two single components. No questions or concerns from the board.

Public Hearing closed at 7:00pm.

Regular Meeting: 7:00 PM

Approval of the November 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Chairman Withcuskey, seconded by Member Grandjean. 5/0.

Old Business:

Two-lot subdivision on Babcock Lake. Motion made by Chairman Withcuskey to approve, seconded by Member Goss, all in favor 5/0. EIS – Chairman Withcuskey declared a negative impact statement, this action will have no adverse impact on the environment, seconded by Member Goss. 5/0

New Business:

Lot-line adjustment/sub-division: Steve & Tara Porcelli – Will have an additional 4.5 acres. Chairman Withcuskey made a motion to accept the 2 lot subdivision, seconded by Member Goyer. 5/0 Public hearing set for January 16, 2024 at 6:50.

RPA and Dave Hunt Preserve: (Mr. Bonesteel). 30.7 acres. Small parking lot to be added, no out buildings, signage to be installed with a kiosk and maps and rules. Road Supervisor Bouchard in attendance to verify it slopes away from road, Jared will work with them.

RPA and Boehme Legacy Forest: (Mr. Bonesteel). 209 acres. Property West of road donated to the RPA. Parking lot to be installed in open field (20 cars), bridge to be built, RPA has already had the DEC out to survey and choose best spot, design has already been submitted, permit has been granted (verification submitted with documents). Bridge is commercially engineered and constructed. No bathroom or other outbuildings to be added. Normal kiosk with signage to be included. Board

asked about width of trails, for ATV access. This is an on foot trail per Mr. Bonesteel, it's a wilderness situation. RPA has set up an automatic dispatch DEC call should there be a situation. An extrication crew will be dispatched if necessary per Mr. Bonesteel. Per Mr. Bonesteel all trail maps will be shared with the town once trails are build and maps are prepared. Chairman Withcuskey made it clear that time would be at the essence should a rescue crew be needed in an emergency. No other questions from the Board. Motion to accept made by Chairman Withcuskey, seconded by Member Surprise - 5/0. Public Hearing set for January 15, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Informal Discussion:

Chairman Withcuskey and the board thanked Member Skip Grandjean for the 40+ years of town service. Chairman Withcuskey announced he would be stepping down from the board, he will be available to assist in any way possible. Road Superintendent questioned the strain on tax payer services, his constituents had questions about taxed property, road condition and costs.. Mr. Bonesteel addressed Mr. Bouchards questions. RPA explained they are working with those property owners willing to sell or donate property. RPA has filed for exemptions, they do pay for projects they also send a donation to the fire district. Connor Hoydt introduced himself on how he would approach the debit. He believes we should support the RPA. He talked about the hiking trails drawing additional tourism. Mr. Bouchard commented on garbage being left on town roads. He looks forward to positivity and seeing the tourist property work.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:30

Motion made by Chairman Withcuskey, seconded by Member Goyer.

Linda J. Laverway