

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Scenic Road Rose Hill Road Planned Maintenance: In accordance with Ordinance 29, An Ordinance Concerning the Designation of Scenic Roads, the Commission will receive public comment related to the proposed improvements to Rose Hill Road

1. The public hearing was reconvened by Mike Cherry on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 7:32 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, CT 06339.

2. Regular members present: Roger Tremblay, Mike Cherry, Ken Koe, Ed Lynch (Excused), Naomi Rodriguez.

Alternate members present: Tom Baudro (Excused), Jeff Kulo (seated for Ed Lynch).

Also present: Charlie Karno, Town Planner

Mike Cherry noted for record that all present commissioners went on a site walk of the area and that the Planning Commission was involved because it's a scenic road (per ordinance 29 fm which he read)

3. Exhibits:

- A. Memo Steve Masalin, re: Rose Hill Road Planned Maintenance (1/31/2012)
- B. Letter Martha A Goldman; (1/30/2012)
- C. Letter Robert Askins (1/31/2012)
- D. Letter Frederick W. Keith, Jr. (2/1/2012)
- E. Letter Amy Wilcox (2/1/2012)
- F. Letter Amy Wilcox (2/3/2012)
- G. Email Jonathan Parker (2/3/2012)
- H. Email Anne Roberts-Pierson (2/4/2012)
- I. Email Del Knight (2/2/2012)
- J. Email Brad Durfee (2/2/2012)
- K. Email J. David & Deborah H. Vessels
- L. Letter Atty. Frank N. Eppinger (2/27/2012)
- M. Letter from State District Biologist, DEEP, Ann Kilpatrick (3-1-2012)
- N. Notes from Amy Wilcox

Mike Cherry read into the record additional communications from community (exhibits) mostly highlighting various concerns, especially regarding objections to the planned cutting of trees, particularly an approximately 300 year old large white ash across fm 94 Rose hHll Rd.

In Exhibit G, Arborist Jonathan Parker (Yankee Tree LLC) who has done work for locals, feels the large ash tree should be preserved and he offered to maintain and make needed corrections at no cost to Town.

Exhibit L identified concerns about drainage problems that would worsen with upgrades to the road.

4. Presentation by applicant and/or consultants:

Town Engineer Steve Maslin described some mods he made to plans regarding sections that could use milling & resurfacing instead of the originally planned total reclamation. He also stated that the drainage concerns identified in Exhibit L have been considered in the plan and that work currently planned will not add to the drainage problem. He also explained the requirement for a minimum of 3.5 in. of surfacing per road ordinance, and the current financial impact on repairs of some 100 other roads due to recurring costs

of Rose Hill maintenance if left in its current condition. The ash tree will not be removed and special care will be taken while paving in the vicinity of the tree to. There is another large tree that may not be removed. Tree maintenance is typically not well funded; he often would go to state for grant money.

5. Questions from Commissioners:

6. Statement of Citizens In Favor of the application:

7. Statement of Citizens Opposed to application:

- Frederick Keith, 61 Rose Hill Rd.

He expressed concern about further improvement as 25 mph speed limit is not currently observed in general; he cited an incident where a van traveling at high speed killed 4 guinea hens birds crossing the road. He thinks speeds will go up by 10 mph if the road is improved. He estimates that half of the traffic is out of state presumably going between the 2 casinos. He asked that commission give these concerns due consideration

- Amy Wilcox, 94 Rose Hill Rd.

She now wants to extend her previously stated objection to removal some to of all 12 posted trees. She said they don't affect the road surface and that none are dead, and that any viability judgement should wait until leafing takes place.

8. Rebuttal by applicant and/or consultant:

Mr. Maslin stated that road improvements will occur wether or not any of the trees are removed. He can live with not removing any from a road improvement point of view to the extent that potentially hazardous situations are avoided.

Commissioner Naomi Rodriguez noted she saw a tree close to a power line. Mr. Maslin said that being close to power lines is not a reason for removal by the town. Com. Rodriguez asked how many trees were hollow? Mr. Maslin stated he doesn't know precisely, possibly half of them. Com. Rodriguez how many were rotted near the bottom. Mr. Maslin stated he was not sure, but that some were rotted down to the ground.

Commissioner Jeff Kulo asked what are the cost implications if we remove them now vs. later? Mr. Maslin said it costs \$350 - \$400 for emergency tree removal; contractors can remove all for around \$900 per day, over a maximum of 2 days. A main concern would be liability risk.

Com. Rodriguez asked, once the road is resurfaced, who should be requested to add a speed bump. Mike Cherry said it would be the mayor. Mr. Maslin said that currently there are no speed bumps on any Ledyard public road.

9. Adjournment/Continuance: The public hearing was continued/adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger J. Tremblay,
Secretary (Acting)