

Present: Denis Hebert, Peggy Lamson, Jack Pare, Barbara Hill, John Frink, Robert Simms, Planner Tom Morgan. Chris Cross, Cosmas Iocovozzi.

Absent: Sandy Hislop.

Vice Chairman Denis Hebert opened the meeting at 7:10 pm

Minutes: The minutes of meeting held January 13, were amended to correct the name of resident discussing water availability with Portsmouth. Name should read Michael Mazeau. Also, the property across from the Asia Restaurant, River Rd, has no buildings - is land only. Minutes as amended were accepted on a motion by Peggy Lamson, seconded by Barbara Hill.

Correspondence:

Report from Acentech 12-18-02, re: Community Sound Compliance Test at Newington Energy Power Plant.

Message from Walter Beck, NE Energy, re: identification by Alliance Acoustical Consultants of some noise at the plant and possible solution..

Proposal by Environmental Engineering Services for Phase II Stormwater Permit Application.

Presentation:

Mr Steve Miller, representing the organization NROC,(Natural Resources Outreach Coalition) introduced the Board to the purpose of NROC with a slide show. Board was advised that the organization is formed to assist municipalities with identifying and ways of preserving , water quality and other natural resources. Programs are customized to each town's needs and there is no charge for the services.

Denis Hebert noted that the Town is in the process of updating their Master Plan and the program offered by NROC could be a good tool. Mr Miller also advised that the organization is also

available to review a variety of planning issues and to assist in coordinating these issues.

Board discussed making application to NROC . John Frink stated that his interest is in conserving open space and finding ways to educate owners of large parcels of land on the various options available and assistance in applying for grants, etc.

Following Mr Millers presentation it was voted, on a motion by Chris Cross, seconded by Barbara Hill, to make application to NROC for services in 2003. Contact person is Amanda Stone.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Report on Noise at ConEd Power Plant

Board had read report from Acentech - Denis Hebert stated that due to his long involvement with the project and being aware that noise could be a major issue he feels a responsibility to the residents in the area of the plant to see that the design criteria is met. He very clearly had stated in the permit application period that the db would be 3 not to exceed 5.

James Barnes of Acentech Inc stated that there is some confusion in the db numbers - that the 3/5 was in addition to any background sound.

Mr Barnes also noted that there are some areas where there are unacceptable peaks - that many noise problems are tonal problems and the plant owners are working to mitigate these tones. Walter Beck, Site Project Manager, and John McTear were present. Mr Beck stated that ConEd is inspecting all the motors to determine if equipment is in compliance with requirements and contacting vendors when there is a question. Additional sound tests are to be taken on Wednesday 1-29-03, and results of tests should be available in 4 to 6 weeks. Denis Hebert noted that ConEd should make sure the solutions are not temporary but will stay in place. Attorney Ratigan was present and pointed out the many complaints were about the noise from steam venting and pressure valve release.

Mr Beck described the cause of these events and stated, to the best of his knowledge, the control systems had been corrected. He added that he was aware that the startup noise was more than it should have been and there has been no more complaints since corrections were made. Denis Hebert noted that the EFSEC permit has definite operational limits - the plant owners need to find a balance between safety and good sense. Also, that James Barnes needs to be kept informed on results of any noise issues to confirm that the EFSEC permit requirements are being met. Discussed a previous agreement of compensation - that ConEd had agreed to penalize themselves for any undue noise from safety release valves. The amount of compensation was questioned. Mr Beck stated that to his knowledge the penalty was \$5,000 per lift if between the hours 8 pm to 8 am and \$2,000 if between hours 8am to 8 pm. Mr Beck added that the plant management are vigilant in getting these noise issues resolved and agreed to notify Acentech of schedule of startup/shutdown times so they could observe and monitor. Denis Hebert stated that the town should be informed and have a say in what is acceptable noise levels. The noise conditions attached to the permit are very specific and on the whole the residents in the area have been very patient but for how long!

Mr Beck agreed to return to the Board when he has some up to date information about corrective actions.

B) Trailer Ordinance clarification

Building Inspector, Charlie Smart, requested clarification - why provisions for extension of the permit is not provided for in the ordinance.

Board advised that any extension after ninety days will require Planning Board approval - that owners of the trailer should be advised to make application to PB if they require an extension. Noted that ordinance is posted and will be on the warrant (as posted) of the March 03, town meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A) National Flood Insurance Program

Tom Morgan gave some background info on the Flood Plain Program - that the Town had never joined partly due to a conflict with the federal mapping on flood potential areas in town.

However not belonging to the program can create some problems for property owners in acquiring mortgages or flood insurance without proof that the property is not in a flood plain.

Jack Pare advised that satellite imagery with 3' elevations is available for purchase. Board agreed that this data would be helpful to prove the land elevations above flood plain. Tom Morgan will look into obtaining the data.

B) NPDES II

Tom Morgan gave Board a status report on this mandated program to inventory all storm water runoff in Town.

Tom advised that technical assistance will be needed and the Selectmen have agreed to consider the funding.

Master Plan -

Tom Morgan reported that the surveys have been sent out and are being returned . He introduced a resident, Gail Klanchesser, who has agreed to assist Tom with work on the update.

Gail has agreed to set up a data base from the survey and she asked the members to review the survey and advise her of information they would like to see categorized. Gail will also type the present Master Plan to disc to make additions and updates easier.

Tom advised that some results of survey should be available by the end of February and goals and objectives can then be set.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm on a motion by Lamson, seconded by Frink.

Pat Main
Secretary