



TOWN of THOMPSON

MINUTES TOWN OF THOMPSON ORDINANCE REVIEW

COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING *

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022 @ 8:00 AM

MERRILL SENEY COMMUNITY ROOM - TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Al Landry, Dick Trudeau, JoAnn Hall, Angela Authier
Celest Guimont

ALSO PRESENT: Amy St. Onge, First Selectman, Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town
Planner; Paul Hopkins, Town Assessor, Valerie Clark; Mary Eames

1) Call To Order

Al Landry, Chair, called the meeting to order at 08:00 AM.

2) Accept Minutes

A Motion was made by Dick Trudeau to accept the Minutes of the June 9, 2022 Ordinance Review Committee meeting as written, seconded by JoAnn Hall, all in favor, Motion carried.

3) Correspondence

Al Landry read the email from Dave Clark regarding Mortared Stone Walls and Section VI Valuation.

4) • Citizen's Comments (Time Limit at Discretion of Chair)

Valerie Clark, 105 Alm Rd., stated a correction is needed in the June 9 minutes as she did not state regarding subsection A.2. that the wording of drainage or roadwork should stay, these stand-alone items, she does not agree with keeping this wording in the Open Space Ordinance. Regarding subsection A.4. clear cutting, Valerie also disagrees having that wording in the Open Space Ordinance.

5) Dick Trudeau read Paul Hopkins email answering Angela Authier's question at the June 2, 2022 meeting

("Angela Authier, 1448 Riverside Dr., questioned what the difference is in value of the Open Space currently & the new proposed guidelines being proposed".)

Dick stated that Paul Hopkins, Assessor should be at the meeting to help clarify/explain the examples he included in his email. Dick stated that we want to get this proposed ordinance completed today to send to the Board of Selectmen. Amy St. Onge, First Selectmen, left the meeting to get Paul Hopkins. Paul joined the meeting at 08:20

Paul explained that currently there is no methodology and explained the process that each parcel is assessed differently as many are not the same, some have pasture which is a different value, some are woodland again different value, some are swamp, tillable with all different values. 75 % was an average of all split parcels.

Paul explained the 75% assessed value of the excess acreage would set a calculation going forward, in that the "excess acreage value" is something that the State requires each Town to calculate following a revaluation. So the important thing is that it is something that is already required --- so we have two standard values for the calculation --- which is fair.

Dick asked Paul Hopkins what he thinks on keeping the 75% assessed value. Paul stated it would be better to keep the 75% assessed value. One value, simplifies, straightforward, would be best going forward for future assessors.

Al Landry was concerned about doing this, if the percentage needed to be changed the ordinance would have to be revised, then it would mean calling a town meeting for citizens to vote on the revised ordinance. Discussion ensued amongst the members the consensus was to keep the 75% assessed value in the proposed ordinance.

6) Review Public Act 490 Open Space

Al Landry, Chair suggested reviewing the entirety of the proposed ordinance.

Page 1 reviewed, members all agreed - no problems

Page 2 reviewed, members all agreed - no problems

Page 3 reviewed, section B #4 to add in "or other measures"
The presence of dams "or other measures" installed for flood control purposes by Federal State, or Local governments.

Page 4 reviewed,

Section IV wording changed by Tyra Penn-Gesek for better clarity. Members agreed all good.

Dick Trudeau made a motion to present the Proposed Ordinance Draft to the Board of Selectman with that one insertion to get this moving forward. All in favor, motion carried.

Section B # 4 Insertion >> or other measures

7) Citizen's Comments (Time Limit at Discretion of Chair)

Valerie Clark 105 Alm Rd. Thanked the Committee for their work on this proposed Open Space ordinance. She also thanked Tyra Penn-Gesek for working through everyone's concerns. She appreciated Paul Hopkins tying a value for excess acreage.

First Selectmen, Amy St. Onge thanked the Committee and Tyra Penn-Gesek for their several meetings working diligently with a tight timeframe to complete this proposed Open Space ordinance.

8) Committee Members Comments

Al Landry thanked the Committee members for their hard work and input. In turn members thanked Al for keeping things moving quickly forward.

Members thanked Tyra Penn-Gesek for her immense help to clarify the many items, rules, regulations of PA490-Open Space. Members thanked Paul Hopkins for his input in explaining the 75% value.

All Members praised Donna Hall for taking superb minutes, her enormous help, always having hand-outs to help in our research of PA490. Her knowledge and input. Al Landry said we should Applaud Donna. The members actually did Applaud Donna, with Al saying too bad she's not here to hear the applause.

9) Adjourn

A Motion was made by Dick Trudeau to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 AM, seconded by JoAnn Hall. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Celeste Guimont

Ordinance Review Committee Member