

TOWN OF STERLING
Earth Removal Bylaw Review Committee
July 23, 2019

Present: Shaun Francis, Domenica Tatasciore and Sarah Culgin

Barbara O'Connor attended, as minute taker.

Absent: Carl Corrinne and Matt Marro

Meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Ms. Tatasciore received an email dated July 23, 2019 from Sterling resident Jeffrey L. Donaldson expressing his interest in participating on the Earth Removal Bylaw Review Committee. One committee member mentioned that, in order for Mr. Donaldson to get onto the committee, he will have to be appointed.

At the May Town Meeting, Earth Removal Bylaw Review Committee's proposal was tabled. It is Committee's objective to bring it back by addressing the objections expressed at the town meeting. The conclusion was reached that many residents, including those who submitted concerns and suggestions, did not fully read and/or understand the verbiage of the bylaw.

On May 15, 2019, Town Administrator, Ross Perry, had sent an email itemizing his "notes from Town meeting regarding the Earth Removal Bylaw". The list of items on Mr. Perry's list formed the gist of this Bylaw Review Committee meeting.

1. In several instances, specific words were added to the text of the bylaw to aid in better understanding the verbiage, example the word "negatively" to the phrase impact drainage on the site, making it "negatively impact drainage...."
2. One resident stated that the US Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service no longer exists. This committee changed the name on the bylaw to The US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services.
3. Jim Simpson, a building contractor, objected to the term "traffic study" as potentially too costly for his business. Mr. Francis was given the action item to come up with a less daunting word for "study".

The question was asked: What should we have done differently so as not to have had the bylaw tabled at the town meeting?

1. Present the bylaw at other meetings before the town meeting. For example, put it on the Board of Selectmen agenda. The process won't feel so rushed and will involve a fairly broad audience, especially the people who wrote to this Committee.
2. Run the bylaw by Steve Powell of Powell Stone & Gravel for his input.
3. Speak with Joe Curtin who works at Pandolf Perkins to get his impression of his bylaw. Set up a tour of Pandolf Perkins. Mr. Francis was given the action item to reach out to Joe Curtin.
4. Hit home that this Committee's top priority is to safeguard the town's residents and to satisfy the bylaw's proposed Performance Standards.

The Committee discussed the need for each applicant to submit an "Earth Removal Notification" form which states that they have complied with bylaw's requirements and have met the Performance Standards. More discussion is needed as to the wording of this in the draft bylaw. Ms. Tatasciore took the action item to work on the language.

Items for the next meeting:

1. Incorporate all of these meeting's notes.
2. Discuss further the "Earth Removal Notification" verbiage.

Date and time for next meeting: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 2:00 p. m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.