

TOWN OF STERLING  
Earth Removal Bylaw Review Committee  
August 27, 2019

Present: Shaun Francis, Domenica Tatasciore, Sarah Culgin, Carl Corrine, Jeff Donaldson

Barbara O'Connor attended, as minute taker.

Absent: Matt Marro

**Minutes from the Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

The Minutes for July 23, 2019 and July 30, 2019 meetings were approved.

For the benefit of the new committee member, Jeff Donaldson, the purpose of this committee was reiterated: At the May Town Meeting, the Earth Removal Bylaw Review Committee's proposal was tabled. It is this committee's objective to bring it back by addressing the objections expressed at the town meeting.

The question was asked: Who has the authority, i. e. someone who can enforce the by-law, to order a cease and desist of a person who has begun removing earth? Is it the Permit Granting Authority (PGA), the Board of Selectman's, role? It was suggested that the town might need a person on retainer for this purpose. The Committee discussed asking Town Administrator, Ross Perry, who he thinks should be called. Jeff Donaldson was given the **action item** to draft the wording for cease and desist orders including emergencies and violations to be added to the bylaw under Section 63-11 Violations.

Section 63-4H - How does the bylaw capture wording regarding grandfathered situations that this Committee might not be aware of? Is there any reporting to the town? Carl Corrine is to follow up this question with the Sterling Fire Department.

Section 63-D - The Committee replaced the controversial words "traffic report" with the word "documentation".

Based on the Committee's understanding of the Sterling Planning Board's July 10, 2019 approved meeting minutes, which state: "... the BOS know that the Planning Board is moving forward on the Earth Removal By-law Review/Re-write process. At this time we have a solid working draft which will be fine-tuned in the coming months", the Committee voiced concern that of the Planning Board's draft of a similar bylaw might be redundant to this Committee's

efforts. Members moved to request a copy of the Planning Board's by-law for review. **Action item:** Carl will write a letter requesting their draft.

**Action item:** Shaun is to get Joe Curtin's perspective on the by-law.

Date and time for next meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 2:00 p. m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.