

TOWN OF STERLING  
Earth Removal Bylaw Review Committee  
October 29, 2019

Present: Shaun Francis, Domenica Tatasciore, Sarah Culgin, Matt Marro and Carl Corrine

Barbara O'Connor attended, as minute taker.

Absent: Jeff Donaldson

Non-member attendee: John Kilcoyne

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

Ms. Tatasciore suggested the Organization and Administration agenda item be moved to the next meeting. All members agreed.

Ms. Tatasciore stated that, for quorum reasons, the only minutes that could be approved are those for September 17, 2019 minutes. Mr. Francis moved to approve the 9/17/19 minutes, Mr. Corrine seconded and the members voted to approve.

Due to illness, Mr. Donaldson has not be able undertake the reworking of some portions of the bylaw at this time for review.

John Kilcoyne, a member of the Earth Removal Board, presented an email from fellow board member, Dee Rich, sharing her concerns regarding the 1,000 cubic yard requirement for earth removal permits. Mr. Kilcoyne also shared some observations from people he has spoken with; for the most part, the feedback was positive. Though the existing earth removal bylaw is confusing, people are aware that this committee is working to resolve these issues.

There was some discussion regarding who the Permit Granting Authority (PGA) should be and the advantages/disadvantages and the need to actively assist applicants. Additionally, it was agreed that the ERBRC is fully aware that the current bylaw is confusing, redundant and contradictory and this requires resolution. The ERBRC is aware that some Boards would like the opportunity to review the draft prior to Town Meeting.

Mr. Kilcoyne provided the ERBRC, by way of example, a litany of issues that a resident, who is subject to the current Earth Removal Bylaw, has recently experienced in his efforts to remove 3,500 cubic yards for a garage, including all of the town boards that he was required to confer with, etc. Mr. Kilcoyne recommended that a procedural list had to be developed as the only way to navigate the existing bylaw.

The ERBRC understands that the goal is to craft a bylaw that is understandable and unambiguous while addressing real-life scenarios and situations; trying to deal with one-of-a-kind and far-reaching scenarios is not the goal. At the upcoming Town Meeting, the ERBRC should plan to explain to the town residents what 1,000 cubic yards looks like using examples to help with their understanding as it is not an easy quantity to conceptualize.

The Committee agreed the meet again on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 2:00 p. m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.