

TOWN OF STERLING
Earth Removal Bylaw Review Committee
December 17, 2019

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

Barbara O'Connor attended, as minute taker.

Absent: Jeff Donaldson

Non-member attendee: John Kilcoyne

Minutes from the Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Mr. Corrinne moved to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2019 meeting, Mr. Francis seconded, all approved.

Ms. Tatasciore said that the "Organization and Administration" portion of the agenda will be addressed at the next meeting.

The ERBRC discussed the topic of fire ponds from Patty Page's email which had been postponed until this meeting to order to obtain Matt Marro's input on the subject. Mr. Marro stated that fire ponds are exempted in our by-law. They are most often near a natural water source and are naturally filled. They must be hydrologically sound and have a natural water source near them. A fire pond is an engineer-designed, artificially constructed pond which must have a withdrawal system such as a dry barrel hydrant. A fire pond is to be used in fighting fires.

Section 63-4 J of the draft bylaw references Fire Ponds: "Earth removal for the construction, maintenance and repair of fire ponds..." The Committee decided to remove the topic of fire ponds from this section and to create a new section to address it.

Section 63-4 L is to be re-written to match all of the other items in 63-4 which begin with "Earth removal"

63-4 H will be changed to reflect the Town Meeting date of May 4, 2020.

63-5 After some discussion, the Committee agreed to not require the use of certified or registered mail. Certificate of mailing is a different, less cumbersome process and should be used instead.

The Committee removed the words “at the applicant’s expense” and added a separate sentence that reads, “All costs shall be borne by the applicant”.

63-8 The Committee revised the wording from Superintendent instead of Director of Public Works.

63-13 The Committee added the words “as amended” after the words Section 4.

63-8 (8) Just before the words “A permit may be renewed.....” add the following verbiage: “The applicant shall make an application for renewal of a permit 60 days or more before expiration of the current permit.

Mr. Kilcoyne asked for a timeframe for the completion of a draft of the revised by-law. By the end of January, a draft will be submitted to the Zoning Board, Earth Removal Board and the Planning Board for their comments. By the end of March feedback is expected back from these boards in order for this committee to submit the by-law to the Board of Selectmen.

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

The next meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.