Not Approved

**Minutes**

**MONT VERNON PLANNING BOARD**

**Public Meeting**

**September 26, 2023**

Present: Steve Bennett, John Quinlan, Garth Witty, Christina Johantgen, Brittany Soboliev (via Zoom), Mark Slavin, Aaron Daigneault, Ray Anderson (MACC Base), Jay Wilson, Kevin Pomeroy

Community Member: Jay Goodell

**7:05 pm:** Bennett calls the meeting to order.

**7:05 pm New Members:**

Schwarz introduces new members Christina **Johantgen** and Brittany **Soboliev**, who were just appointed to the Planning Board at last night’s Selectmen’s Meeting. Community member Jay Goodell addresses the Board regarding open positions and expresses an interest in joining the Board.

**7:25 pm: Subdivision Regs – Open Space and Road Bond:**

General discussion regarding updating Open Space regulations and Road Bonding.

**8:00pm: 2nd NH Turnpike EMS concerns:**

Chief **Slavin** comes before the Board with Sargeant **Daigneault** and Ray **Anderson** of MACC Base to address concerns that were brought up over the weekend on 2nd NH Turnpike in Mont Vernon and response time issues. 2nd NH Turnpike in Mont Vernon is not accessible from any other road in Mont Vernon, is not marked and until recently has not had any residences on it. While performing a house check this past weekend, Corporal **O’Keefe** identified concerns regarding the addressing of Boston Post Rd. in Amherst and the possibility of delayed response times due to confusion between the address of 0 Boston Post Rd. in Amherst and the likelihood of mutual aid confusing 2nd NH Turnpike with Francestown Turnpike. He raised these concerns with MACC Base, who further escalated the concerns to the NH Division of Emergency Services and Communications who have provided an email comment that they agree the “2nd New Hampshire Turnpike should be given a unique name that is not duplicate or similar sounding to any road names in either Mont Vernon or Amherst”. **Anderson** agrees this is a concern especially in the event a State Trooper is responding, and they are unfamiliar with the area. Many times, Troopers are coming from as far as Salem and this may be their first time in Mont Vernon/Amherst. **Slavin** agrees and references a 2002 case in Cheshire County where the judge ruled against the Town of Swanzey, after they were provided with a list of road names that the Emergency Communications Mapping/Addressing Unit felt should be changed for safety reasons. Selectmen decided overall to keep the names the same and the Fire Department then responded to the wrong street. This could have been avoided had the road names been changed. Slavin asks the Board to consider changing the road name of 2nd NH Turnpike to make it clear that it is its own road. Fire Chief **Wilson** states that he does not believe it is an issue as several surrounding towns have sections of 2nd NH Turnpike, the Turnpike has always been called that and first responders should learn the roads of the Town’s they serve. Furthermore, he doesn’t understand why the matter is before the Planning Board because it is an existing road and therefore not under the Planning Board’s purview. **Bennett** states that the Planning Board has the right to review the matter and make a recommendation to the Selectmen. The Board discusses the matter and expresses concerns over carefully handling the situation as 2nd New Hampshire Turnpike is a Class VI Road that is unmaintained by the Town and there is an agreement in place with the one homeowner currently building on this road. Ultimately, the Board agrees to recommend that the Selectmen should change the road name, sooner rather than later to avoid issues with address changes, deeds etc. and suggests the name Cesars Brook Rd.

**8:45pm: Review of Minutes:**

**Quinlan motions to accept the minutes of 9/12/23 as written, second by Witty, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed.**

**As there is no other business before the Board, Witty motions to adjourn, second by Quinlan.**

Meeting Adjourned 8:50pm

Next meeting: October 10, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Schwarz

Admin