

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman Brubaker called the meeting to order at 7pm. Vice Chairman Brubaker notes that typically public hearings are recorded and live streamed, but the town's audio and video systems are not functioning at this time.

ROLL CALL: Vice Chairman Andy Brubaker, Selectman Representative Ed Beattie, Members Lisa Brown Kucharski, Shawn Hanson, Eric Cimon

Not present: Chairman Todd Santora, Member Abigail Tonry, Alternate Member Jon Ridzon

Non-voting: Building Inspector Mark Sikorski and Circuit Planner Glenn Coppelman

PUBLIC HEARING:

Case #19-08-01: Application from Unitil Service Corp., for Final Public Hearing for Scenic Road Alteration Permit to perform storm resiliency work along a small portion of Mill Lane and along Stard Road. This would entail the removal/pruning of all vegetation growing under or over the lines and the removal of hazard trees threatening the lines. (Cross Reference Case #19-03-01)

Vice Chairman Brubaker called the public hearing to order and read the description of Case #19-08-01 as written above.

Chris Moultroup, Forestry Supervisor for Unitil, presented the company's Scenic Road Alteration Permit application. This work would entail the removal of trees and branches growing under or overhanging the power lines on designated scenic roads Stard and Mill Lane (Article IX, Section 3), with the intent to obtain clearance from the electrical wires, as well as clearance near the source of power distribution circuits where an estimated thousand or so customers could be affected by future storm related outages. Present with the applicant are Sara Sankowich, Unitil Manager of Forestry Operations, and Stephen Moroni, State Certified Arborist. Applicant Moultroup plans to obtain landowner, as well as abutter(s) permission if applicable, in advance of any proposed work. He indicated that all trees affected by this proposed work have been "flagged" with white or orange ribbons. Additionally, polka-dotted pink ribbons have been added to trees identified as most critical for removal.

S. Hanson clarifies if any white ribbons have been removed since the addition of the polka-dotted pink ribbons, and applicant Moultroup confirms that no white ribbons have been removed. G. Coppelman's Plan Review Memorandum as it relates to Case #19-08-01 was also referenced during the discussion.

MOTION: To invoke jurisdiction.

MOTION: A. BRUBAKER

SECOND: L. BROWN-KUCHARSKI

UNANIMOUS

After further discussion between Unitil representatives and members of the Planning Board, E. Beattie believes it would be advantageous to the board to perform a site walk with a representative of Unitil to understand which trees and limbs have been proposed to be removed and/or trimmed. He adds that the scenic road provision was voted into the zoning ordinance by the residents of Hampton Falls, which therefore exemplifies that the planning board should be thoughtful and continue to educate themselves on the project before voting to allow this permit. He notes that he believes both A. Tonry and T. Santora (not present) are in favor of the site walk. E. Cimon agrees with E. Beattie and adds that he would like the committee to do their due diligence before taking a position.

S. Sankowich informs the planning board members that this is a “one time only” opportunity, offered as part of Unitil’s Storm Resiliency Program. S. Hanson remarked that the benefit to having Unitil do this work, if completed within a defined scope, is that it is Unitil’s expense and therefore the town would not be financially responsible for removing any currently existing dead or hazardous trees that could impact residents.

Unitil has a preferred proposal for cutting and/or trimming that has been presented, but based upon the board’s response and desire for site walk, S. Sankowich proposes another option. The proposal includes:

- reviewing the general areas of Stard Rd. and Mill Lane where trees/limbs are marked
- collecting feedback from the board members present
- presenting a final list of trees and limbs to be cut and/or trimmed at the next public hearing on September 24th for the board to review and consider action.

G. Coppelman reminded those present that there are no decisions made at a site walk and confirmed that the applicant would not need to re-apply for the September 24th meeting, as this would be a continued public hearing.

Vice Chairman Brubaker opened the public comment.

Scott Blood (21 Stard Rd., Hampton Falls) states that he does not support the removal or trimming of any trees on Stard Road. He does not believe the trees on Stard Road to be hazard

trees affecting power lines, and expresses concern about previous storm resiliency work he has seen in neighboring towns, describing these roads as having been clear cut. He also comments on the trees offering a necessary noise barrier from neighboring highways.

Taylor Blood (21 Stard Rd., Hampton Falls) states that she does not support removal or trimming of any trees on Stard Road. She reminds the board that this road has been specifically designated for preservation of its scenic character.

Vice Chairman Brubaker closed the public comment.

Further discussion continues related to the scheduling of a site walk.

MOTION: To have a site walk on Monday, September 9th at 4pm with a representative from Unitol to look at trees on Stard Rd. and follow with a second site walk on Mill Lane.

MOTION: L. BROWN-KUCHARSKI

SECOND: E. BEATTIE

UNANIMOUS

MOTION: To continue case #19-08-01 to the next planning board meeting on September 24th, 2019 at 7pm.

MOTION: E. CIMON

SECOND: E. BEATTIE

UNANIMOUS

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: July 23, 2019:

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from the July 23, 2019 meeting as written.

MOTION: L. BROWN-KUCHARSKI

SECOND: E. CIMON

UNANIMOUS

COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD MEMBERS:

- Vice Chairman Brubaker confirms that board members received the 2020-2025 Capital Improvement Program information in their packets.
- Vice Chairman Brubaker requests board members review the proposed 2020 budget plan, as provided in their packets. Please send any suggestions or corrections to Chairman Todd Santora by the due date of Tuesday, September 3rd.

**PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS**

**AUGUST 27, 2019 - 7PM
TOWN HALL**

- G. Coppelman describes the new format of the Fall 2019 Land Use Conference on Saturday, October 5th from 9am-3pm in Concord. If anyone is interested in attending, they can contact Karen Anderson (new Planning Board Secretary to begin September 3rd).

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION: L. BROWN-KUCHARSKI

SECOND: E. CIMON

UNANIMOUS

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED TUESDAY, September 24, 2019, 7:00 p.m.