



Town of Denning – Planning Board Public Hearings

April 28, 2012

Members of the Planning Board present were: Chairman Carl Landon, Mr. Joseph Sibiga, Mr. Greg Vurckio, Mrs. Jennie Snyder, and Mr. Dennis Deyo. One member absent Mr. Steven Bobik.

Members of the public present were: Mr. David Brooks, Mrs. Elaine Beck, Mr. Paul Beck, Mr. Donald Beck, Mr. Gary Beck, Miss Anna Beck, Miss Katelin Beck, Mr. Anthony Carminati, Mrs. Colette Bisso, Master Frank Vurckio, Tyler Brooks, Mr. William Smith representing the Sportsman Federation and Mr. Herbert Dewitt of Sullivan Co. representing the CWC.

Public Hearing - DEP Recreational Land Use on Parcel ID 1183

Public Hearing called to order at 10:06 am. by Chairman Landon. The Chairman stated that the Planning Board was holding a Public Hearing for the recreational land use associated with the subdivision of Mr. Kimball Parker's property. Mr. Parker is only selling a portion of his property to the DEP. The Chairman explained that in the documentation that the DEP sent the Town, it states that Mr. Parker is required to be in compliance with all subdivision requirements of the Town. Mr. Landon stated that Mr. Parker has not appeared before the Planning Board yet, but he did speak with him on the phone. Mr. Parker explained the reason he has not appeared before the Board is that he does not have the survey maps yet.

Mr. Landon stated that the DEP land acquisition program only gives the Town 120 days to respond. With that in mind the Planning Board was holding the Public Hearing as a courtesy to the Town Board, to collect any and all information from the public on recommended recreational land use. The Planning Board will provide the Town Board with all the information that was collected, so they will be able to make an informed decision.

Mr. Landon stated that the property borders land owned by the DEP that is restricted to hiking only. Mr. David Brooks provided the Planning Board with maps of land that the DEP has acquired in the Catskill park area including Denning, Neversink, and Wawarsing. The Chairman asked the public for any comments on future land use. Mr. Landon stated that the DEP provided information that the current land use includes hunting and hiking.

Mrs. Elaine Beck presented the Board with a petition with 28 signatures, photos of a bullet hole above her kitchen window, and an email from her neighbor Mr. John Mineka. Mr. Landon requested that the members of the public introduce themselves. The Chairman stated that the Planning Board requested the DEP's presence at the Public Hearing, but they were not in attendance.

Mr. Herbert Dewitt read a statement regarding the recreational use on the hiking trail to the Red Hill Fire Tower located on Dinch Road. Mr. David Brooks stated that the new land

acquisition would have the same recreational use of hiking only. Mr. Landon informed him that the recreational use of the property would depend on the input from the public.

Mr. Paul Beck stated that the neighbor across the road from the property being sold to the DEP had a bullet hole in their mail box. He went on to state that during hunting season there is about 5 to 7 cars parked along the road side, and that he keeps his children indoors because of all the gun fire. Since there is so much State property in uninhabited areas, there should be no reason for hunting next to any houses. Mrs. Beck stated that Mrs. Sue Cook who signed the petition informed her that she also had a bullet hole in her house.

The Chairman read the petition and discussed email from Mr. Mineka. Mr. Landon and Mr. Brooks discussed the DEP LAP maps. Discussion followed on parking for hikers, and hunters.

Mr. William Smith inquired if there were any police reports filed on the bullet holes. Mr. Gary Beck responded yes, there was a police report filed on a bullet hole that went through the windshield of their motor home.

Mrs. Colette Bisso stated that she also has had numerous bullet holes in her house on Red Hill Road as well. She expressed her concerns for her neighbor, Mr. Dennis Deyo, as he is adjacent to land owned by the DEP where hunting is allowed. Mr. Deyo stated that there is no safe place for someone to hunt on that property although they do.

Mr. Smith stated that "somebody's mad at somebody" for all the bullet holes to be in mail boxes and in homes. Mr. Paul Beck stated that a .22 long caliber bullet is a rim fire and will travel over 1.5 miles and a center fire will travel miles, so it would be nice to have a buffer zone.

Mr. Smith stated that he would demand that the State Police look into the matter and the residents should spend some money to get a lawyer. Mr. Anthony Carminati stated that it takes too long for the Police to arrive here to do anything. Mr. Smith stated that the bullet holes are probably 40 years old. Mr. Paul Beck stated that the bullet holes are not that old and asked Mr. Smith if he should hire a lawyer if someone shoots his children.

Mr. Smith inquired why members of the public were apposed to trapping. Mr. Paul Beck responded that the land that is being sold to the DEP is roughly less than 60 ft. from his back door, if his 10 year old daughter wanders off his property and steps in a trap, should he just call his lawyer and the State Police while his daughter hobbles the rest of her life. Several members of the public expressed concerns over their pets walking into traps. Mr. Smith stated that he would find out the reason why there are bullet holes in houses, mail boxes, and through windshields and not put pressure on the Planning Board. Mrs. Beck inquired of Mr. Smith if she should put an ad in the newspaper requesting the person that shot a hole in her house to please come forward. Mr. Smith replied yes, indeed he would. Mr. Carminati stated that the residents are trying to prevent a tragedy from happening. A lengthy discussion followed on hunting, trapping, posted property, Police protection, and hiking.

Mrs. Jennie Snyder redirected the comments to the topic of hiking as the recreational use of the property as that is what the DEP is proposing as its use. Mr. Paul Beck suggested hiking with a large buffer zone, since he did not want his privacy invaded.

Mr. Carminati stated that the Beck's would lose their privacy if hiking was permitted. He went on to state that there would be problems with parking and with trash from hikers and the DEP will not be there to regulate it or pick up any garbage.

The Chairman stated that the Planning Board will not be making the decision on the land use, but only gathering the public's wishes on land use to give to the Town Board, so that they can make a informed decision.

Mrs. Beck thanked the Board. Discussion followed. Public Hearing on land use closed at 11:00 am. by Chairman Landon.

Public Hearing – Mr. Kimball Parker's Subdivision.

Public Hearing opened on subdivision of Mr. Kimball Parker's property SBL # 50.2-2-11.110 at 11:02 am. The Chairman asked for public comments on Mr. Parker subdividing his property. There was no public opposition.

Motion to accept the subdivision only as a sketch plan by Mrs. Jennie Snyder seconded by Mr. Greg Vurckio. All in favor. The Chairman mentioned that Mr. Parker will have to appear before the Board for the preliminary sketch plan. Mr. Landon made copies of the sketch plan and signed them. Public Hearing on Mr. Kimball Parker's subdivision closed at 11:04 am. by Chairman Landon.

Public Hearing – Mrs. Colette Bisso's Subdivision.

Public Hearing opened on subdivision of Mrs. Colette Bisso's property SBL # 43.3-2-36.100 at 11:05 am. The Board and Mrs. Bisso discussed plan maps and property lines.

Mr. Landon stated that he discussed with the Highway Supervisor, having 3 or 4 more driveways with Mrs. Bisso subdivision. The Highway Supervisor told the Chairman that there should not be any problems with the additional driveways.

The Chairman explained that the next step in Mrs. Bisso subdivision is the preliminary plat. The Chairman informed Mrs. Bisso that she could do the preliminary plat and the final at the same meeting if she is ready. The Planning Board accepted the new information on the subdivision as a sketch plan for Mrs. Bisso's property. There was no public opposition. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Bisso for coming. Public Hearing on Mrs. Colette Bisso's subdivision sketch plan closed at 11:12 am.

Public Hearing – Mrs. Carol Ramsay's Subdivision.

Public Hearing opened on Ms. Carol Ramsay's approval of planned subdivision and sale to the DEP for SBL # 58.-1-24.100 at 11:13 am. The Chairman mentioned that Ms. Ramsay will be at June's meeting and asked the public if they had any comments.

The Board and Mr. Brooks discussed sketch plan maps. The Chairman stated that the next step will be the preliminary plat. Since there is no public opposition she might be able to do the preliminary plat and the final at June's meeting.

Public Hearing on Ms. Carol Ramsay's preliminary sketch plan approval of planned subdivision closed at 11:19 am.

Other Business

Mrs. Snyder mentioned that she will not be able to attend June's meeting. Discussion followed on filling the vacant seat on the Planning Board.

Mr. Landon thanked the Board members and the members of the community for coming to today's meetings. Motion to adjourn at 11:20 am. by Mr. Joseph Sibiga seconded Mr. Dennis Deyo. All in favor.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Tammy Beck
Planning Board Secretary