

Minutes:
Watersmeet Township Planning Commission
Public Hearing of April 18th, 2013

Public Hearing called to order by Chairperson Dennis Snyder at 6:33 PM. The purpose of this Public Hearing was to discuss a "Use by Special Approval" permit request, by Northeast Asphalt to operate a portable asphalt batch plant. It will be co-located at the U.S. Forest Service gravel pit at the end of White Pine Drive for a one month operating window.

Members Present: Chairman-Dennis Snyder, Acting Secretary-Rich Henriksen, Vice Chairman Fred Reimer, Pete Peterson, Roy D'Antonio and Jeff Wasson battled the ice storm to attend. Greg Garlock, Larry Potter and Alan Shively were excused. A quorum being present, the public hearing commenced as scheduled.

Members of the community present: Mike Rogers-Township Supervisor, David Neumann-Zoning Administrator, John Oliver and Cory Brownell of White Pine Drive, Jeff Zelinski of the Watersmeet Chamber of Commerce, Kathy and Ben Thrall and Craig and Lisa Hesse-concerned citizens. Jay Rosemeyer and John Leach were present; representing Northeast Asphalt.

Public Comments / Presentations:

Chairman Snyder called for comments from the members of the community. First up was John Oliver expressed his concerns for hours of operation and duration of project season. John is on call 24/7 when he is using his White Pine Drive residence.

Jay Rosemeyer presented Northeast Asphalt's position. They are supplying asphalt to the U.S. Hwy 2 resurfacing project beginning west of Marenisco. The project will run from mid June through mid July with the completion date for the Highway 2 project set at July 26. They also have a county project for approximately one and one half weeks in addition to the two weeks of work for the Highway 2 project. Jay explained that some materials for this year's project such as shoulder gravel will come from pits outside the township resulting in less than half the total truck traffic from last year. Jay also asked that the 12 hour per day operating window begin at 6:30 AM ending at 6:30 PM as opposed to the 7-7 times of last year. Road folks need an early start. Jay reiterated that Northeast Asphalt will police the road for litter and correct any damage to the road caused by the hauling, same as last year.

Jeff Zelinski stated that he was in favor of allowing this permit as it will contribute to his business.

Cory Brownell stated that while last year's operation by the same parties amounted to a much improved experience for the residents, he stated that the truck traffic often began before 7 AM. He asked who he should contact with complaints such as that. Chairman Snyder introduced Cory to Dave Neumann, the Zoning Administrator who is responsible for investigating and remediating such complaints.

Jay Rosemeyer explained that the only time he can be held accountable for the time of traffic is during asphalt plant operation. Many other users, such as the County have access to the gravel pit all summer, and are not subject to his control. Jay stated that his rules for Batch Plant operation will comply with the conditions of the use permit.

John Oliver was concerned about operation over the Independence Day weekend. Mr. Rosemeyer responded with the State requirement that operations come to a halt at 3:00 PM on July 3rd. Operations will not resume until July 8th.

The Zoning Administrator, David Neumann stated that he heard no complaints over last year's operation of the Batch Plant.

John Leach, an area manager for Northeast Asphalt, reinforced Jay Rosemeyer's position that they be notified ASAP if problems occur so that they may be rectified in a timely manner.

Roy D'Antonio asked Mr. Rosemeyer to repeat the dates for operation. Jay Rosemeyer reiterated that work would commence on a Monday in June closest to the 15th (*June 17th*) and then continue for the next four weeks. Weather permitting; the work envisioned will easily fit that window.

Fred Reimer asked Cory Brownell and John Oliver, both of White Pine Drive, if the conditions of operation placed by the Planning Commission have improved the quality-of-life concerns near their residences. They agreed that the conditions last year were far more livable than in some prior years.

After a final call for comments and no additional comments proffered, Chairman Snyder closed the Public Hearing at 6:49PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Richard C. Henriksen – Acting Secretary-Planning Commission

Approved: 06/12/2013