

Belchertown Planning Board
Site Visit
Minutes – Thursday – August 29, 2019



Members present: Daniel Beaudette, Michael Hofler, Justin Rosienski, Alice Knittel, and Elizabeth Poirs
Staff: Doug Albertson, Town Planner
Owner: James Hayward
Absent: James Natle
Audience Present: None

4:00 pm – Allen Street, James Hayward – sand pit. Vice chair Beaudette called the meeting to order at 4:00.

Mr. Hayward gave an overview of the project's status. He said he has not had a buyer for material in several weeks, and that he is waiting to hear back from a contractor who might have a landfill capping project. If that works, that contractor could take a large amount of sand over a short period. Mr. Hayward said he will have Don Frydryk revise the internal lot boundaries to better fit the topography and avoid having a long driveway against a cliff wall – he wants room to make a less drastic slope. He said his intention is to graduate the edges around the east and north sides to create a gently-sloped bowl. He would keep the boulders in the center of the site and fill in around them to create a high privacy berm in front of the two estate lots.

The Board looked over the site and discussed its current state, how long the project has been going, and when the present extension was good to (November 30, 2020).

Beaudette said his main concern is that the operation is safe. He asked if the foundation on the site is still open. Mr. Hayward said he had been showing the site to a builder, so he wasn't sure if it had been closed again and he would look after the meeting. Beaudette observed that Mr. Hayward is allowing the recreational use of the excavation area by ATVs (by direct observation of the Board during its visit and by Hayward's admission); emphasized that allowing recreational use of the property while operating an open pit mine is not conducive to the safe operation of the facility; and, suggested that the Board should consider his allowing recreational use of the facility to be an unsafe condition. Beaudette also emphasized that Mr. Hayward needs to keep his neighbors and their ATVs out of the site. Mr. Hayward indicated that he did not want to restrict use of the property unless the Board made a written request that he take steps to restrict access. Albertson will send Mr. Hayward a letter to that effect.

Sherman and Frydryk created a closing plan for the site last year. Albertson will distribute that to the board and it will be discussed at the next meeting, September 10.

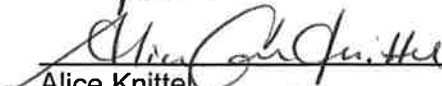
Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 4:37.



Daniel Beaudette



Justin Rosienski



Alice Knittel



Michael Hofler