

<b>PLANNING BOARD</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 27, 2024, 7:00 PM</b>
<b>TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS</b>	<b>TOWN HALL</b>

**FINAL**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Santora called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

**Present (5):** Todd Santora, Chairman; Edward B. Beattie, Selectmen's Representative; Lisa Brown-Kucharski, Member; Will Lojek, Member

**Non-voting:** Glenn Coppelman, RPC Circuit Rider Planner; Mark Sikorski, Building Inspector

**Absent:** Jon Ringel, Member; Eric Cimon, Vice-Chairman Abigail Tonry, Member Rachel D. Webb, Assistant Administrator.

**Guests:** Ben Richard, Forestry Supervisor, Unitil

Alternate Andrew Brubaker was present and recused himself as an abutter to Case #24-02-01

**C. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Chairman Santora opened the Public Hearing:

*1) Case #24-02-01: Application from Unitil for Final Public Hearing for a Scenic Road Alteration Permit for line-clearance maintenance tree pruning work on an overhead distribution circuit that runs along the following Scenic Roadways: Towle Farm Rd., and Old Stage Rd., and a portion of Brown Rd. in Hampton Falls. Each road will be checked for hazard trees as well. This work is necessary to ensure safe, reliable electric service.*

Chairman Santora reviewed the ordinance regarding tree pruning and tree removal along Scenic Roads and noted that Unitil has been compliant with the 6' restriction and notification procedures.

**MOTION: To invoke jurisdiction for Case #24-02-01:** Application from Unitil for Final Public Hearing for a Scenic Road Alteration Permit for line-clearance maintenance tree pruning work on an overhead distribution circuit that runs along the following Scenic Roadways: Towle Farm Rd., and Old Stage Rd., and a portion of Brown Rd. in Hampton Falls. Each road will be checked for hazard trees as well. This work is necessary to ensure safe, reliable electric service.

**MOTION: L. BROWN-KUCHARSKI**

**SECOND: E. BEATTIE**

**UNANIMOUS**

Chairman Santora told the Board that he had the opportunity to speak with the owner of the property between Pole 5/6 and 6/7 and the owner has no objection to those trees being removed. Chairman Santora looked at the tree adjacent to Pole 10 and it does look diseased. He was not able to speak with that owner. B. Richard said that he will make sure that Until speaks with bot property owners.

B. Richard, Forestry Supervisor for Unitil explained that the intention this year is to trim the E18X1 Circuit following the guidelines of Hampton Falls. There is a total of 1.5 miles of circuit on Scenic Roads in Hampton falls. The line maintenance program has resulted in an improved electric reliability, which is the goal.

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The three (3) trees proposed to being removed are all located on Old Stage Road as follows:

- 1 – 8-12” Pine at pole # 5-6
- 1 – 16-20” Beech at pole # 6-7
- 1 – 12-16” Beech at pole # 10

Chairman Santora asked what happens to the wood when the trees are taken down. B. Richard said that they ask the property owner if they want it, if they do it is left for them; if they do not want it Unitil will have it picked up and brought to someplace that does want to use it. Downed trees are marked with “T” for take and “L” for leave. B. Richard did note that there have been “wood thieves” in the past taking wood without permission.

B. Mutrie, Brown Road asked where on Brown Road the trimming was going to take place. She was given a copy of the map.

John Bailly, 56 Brown Road stated that he wanted to know when the work was scheduled so that he could be sure that someone was there. B. Richard noted that and will notify him to schedule the work.

S. Bryant, 16 Old Stage Road said that he was in support of the project and wanted to make sure that a tree on his property that had been trimmed in the past is protected. He added that there is a large Bull Pine near the lines that he believes is dangerous and could be considered for removal.

B. Richard explained that Unitil maintains a list of Special Concern Properties for the tree work and procedures are in place to contact the property owners.

Public Comment was closed at 7:19 pm.

**MOTION: To approve Case #24-02-01: Application from Unitil for Final Public Hearing for a Scenic Road Alteration Permit for line-clearance maintenance tree pruning work on an overhead distribution circuit that runs along the following Scenic Roadways: Towle Farm Rd., and Old Stage Rd., and a portion of Brown Rd. in Hampton Falls. Each road will be checked for hazard trees as well. This work is necessary to ensure safe, reliable electric service. Approval with the following Conditions of Approval:**

- 1) The approval is for the Hazard Trees list of three (3) trees contained in the Scenic Road Alteration Permit from Unitil dated 01/18/2024.**
- 2) That only those trees referenced on the list of Hazard Trees to be removed.**
- 3) That approval and commencement of work is contingent upon landowner consent.**

**MOTION: L. BROWN-KUCHARSKI**

**SECOND: W. LOJEK**

**UNANIMOUS**

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**D. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: January 16, 2024.**

**MOTION:** To approve the Planning Board Minutes from January 16, 2024, as written.

**MOTION:** L. BROWN-KUCHARSKI

**SECOND:** W. LOJEK

**UNANIMOUS**

**E. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**1) Communications**

Chairman Santora commended the Planning Board and Ords. & Reg. Committee members on the amount of work that was accomplished this past year. He noted that the public is not aware of the amount of work done by the committee and he suggested that more communication with the public was needed. Chairman Santora said he was looking for a volunteer to write articles for the town newsletter as well as an executive summary of the meetings that could be posted on the website.

E. Beattie said that what the public saw at the Deliberative Session is the end result of a lot of work. He noted that there work done that is not reflected on the ballot and more work to do.

L. Brown-Kucharski volunteered to write the Executive Summary for this meeting.

The Ords. & Reg. Committee will meet next month, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Planning Board members can email him with topics that they would like to have addressed this year.

Chairman Santora told the members that he would be sending them an email on behalf of Mark Lane regarding the Faro property on Lafayette Road. M. Sikorski said that he had recently received an email from that applicants' engineers regarding a Zoning Board application.

**2) Nomination of a TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) representative at RPC (Rockingham Planning Commission) for consideration of appointment by the Selectmen. Nomination of Richard McDermott for renewal of appointment.**

Chairman Santora told the Board that he checked with the Rockingham Planning Commission about the re-appointment of Richard McDermott to the TAC and was told that due to health reasons, his attendance has been sporadic. Mr. McDermott is requesting to be re-appointed. A. Brubaker said that there is a Zoom option for attendance and it is a position that requires someone that has time available during the day.

G. Coppelman explained that each town in the region can have a representative to the TAC which provides input to the Planning Commission for the State Department of Transportation 10-year transportation plan. It is not an easy role to fill.

After discussion, this was continued to the next meeting.

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- 3) Follow-up on 41 Lafayette Road, compliance with site plan.

M. Sikorski stated that there has been no change on site. The work needed on the wall is weather dependent and has not been completed. Everything that could be done is completed and the site looks nice.

- 4) Update on 5 Kensington Road subdivision

G. Coppelman said that the applicant is in the final stages of wrapping up the conditions for approval. The deeds and Declaration of Easements have been reviewed by Attorney Cordell Johnston; the Wetland Crossing Cost Estimate for Bond has been reviewed and approved by PB Engineer, Christian Smith and the inspection funds have been collected.

**F. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION: To adjourn at 7:55 PM.**

**MOTION: L. BROWN-KUCHARSKI**

**SECOND: W. LOJEK**

**UNANIMOUS**

NEXT PLANNING BOARD MEETING scheduled Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

These minutes prepared by Karen Anderson, Town Administrator.