

October 5, 2019 3:35 p.m.

Draft Minutes from Zoning Board Meeting held at residence of Scott and Priscilla Cote (property owners) with their son Nick Cote (business operator) for a Special Exception to process firewood.

Zoning members present: Susan Chiarella, Chair, Bryan O'Day, Peter Abair, Justin Hastings, Cody Patten, Tanner Jacques.

Others present: See list

Sgt. Michael Beaulieu asked all present if they would agree to have the meeting recorded. Everyone in attendance agreed. The Chair opened a public hearing at 3:35 p.m. concerning the Special Exception to process firewood on site with storage and use of equipment and typical materials used in wood processing, tree work, logging and snow plowing.

The Chair asked for everyone in attendance to introduce themselves and specify whether they were a Zoning Board member, an abutter, or an interested party.

The Zoning Board members, applicant and abutters worked with the town tax map to identify the Cote property and its abutters. Then Scott and Nick Cote identified where on their property the woodcutting activity would take place.

Everyone walked down to that location. Scott and Nick Cote started their equipment so that everyone could get a sense of the level of sound generated by the equipment. The Board members asked general questions about the purpose and use of the equipment. The group then walked up the road to the property owned by Mark Laughlin while Nick Cote remained running the wood splitter and the chainsaw. Two decibel readings were done by Steve Albrecht while the equipment was being operated. The first was at the driveway entrance to the Cote property, that reading was 58 decibels. The second reading with the equipment running was at the road front of the Laughlin house, that reading was 49 decibels. A third reading was taken with the group standing at the road front of the Laughlin house while a group discussion was taking place and Nick Cote was no longer running the equipment, that reading was 53 decibels. These readings were done from a Blackberry phone app.

The Chair then asked each attending abutter if they had any concerns with the application. Charlie Baughman had no concerns. Miriam Ryan had no concerns. The Chair then asked each of the abutters if they had a problem with the logs being at their current location. None of the abutters had any concerns. The Chair then asked for any general questions from Zoning Board members.

Mark Laughlin asked the Chair if he could make some comments and she agreed. Mark gave a description of his medical condition and his negative reaction to noise. He gave examples of how external conditions that are disturbing to him. There were some additional questions from the group on his condition that Mark addressed.

The Chair focused the group on the fact that the point of the meeting was the application for the Special Exception. A concern was raised about being too close to McDaniel's Marsh. Board member Hastings confirmed that it was outside of the restricted area.

There were then general questions regarding next steps and procedures. The Chair discussed the difference between the Planning Board and the Zoning Board and their respective responsibilities. The

Chair asked if there were any more questions regarding the Special Exception in question. Being none, Justin Hastings made the motion to close and move to deliberation. The vote was unanimous. The deliberation meeting is expected to be Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the town office.