

**Poultney Planning Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 6, 2017 - 6:30 PM  
Poultney Town Offices**

Chairman Mark Teetor called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Commission members in attendance included Neal Vreeland, Pattie McCoy, and Ernie DeMattis. Others in attendance included Paul Donaldson, Zoning Administrator, and members of the public (see Attendance Sheet attached).

**Purpose:** This is a continuation of a hearing commenced on June 27, 2017 in connection with a Petition submitted to the Planning Commission seeking repeals, to the Poultney Unified Bylaws, specific to Sections 417: Slate Mining, Section 418: Slate Processing, and Section 1424: Site Development.

Chairman Mark Teetor called the meeting to order.

The board took comments from members of the slate quarry group, and members of the landscapers and excavator companies in town.

Discussion regarding whether slate processing in Section 418 was too broad, and whether language could be crafted so as to clarify that the intent is to described milling into final product and not simply working the stone.

Paul Donaldson pointed out that section 1424 has many exemptions that would alleviate much concern as it relates to driveway maintenance, and general landscaping. Specifically, Section 1503 (10) excludes the need to get permits for “*Minor grading and excavation associated with road and driveway maintenance (e.g., including culvert replacement and resurfacing), and lawn and yard maintenance (e.g., for gardening or landscaping), or which is otherwise incidental to an approved use... ”.*

There was discussion as to whether the word “site” could be removed so as to more closely follow the definition of development that is defined elsewhere in the PUBs.

Members of the group requesting the repeal desire a 25 foot setback for quarrying activity, and stated that Fair Haven has such a setback.

There was discussion as to whether the bylaws could be amended to state that so long as a quarry is recognized as a pre-existing exempt quarry for Act 250 purposes, and whether that recognition should exempt them from PUBs.

Some members of the public attending expressed the concern of weighing the rights of quarry owners with that of residential structures, and that there must be some middle ground to protect the property rights of all. There were concerns expressed as to the water rights of others, the dangers of blasting, and dangers of quarry holes in close proximity to property lines.

Neal Vreeland made a motion to recess the meeting, and to be continued until August 2, 2017 at 6PM, Ernie Demattis seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was recessed, and continued to August 2, 2017 at 6PM.

Planning Coma Mtg July 6, 2017

Mary Sue Reed

Ryan Davenport

Charles Brown

Day Dr

Don Smith

Tom Allard

Steve Taran

Bob Williams

Samuel Boone

Mark Priest

Porter Pratt

Clay Head

Jon Hill

Craig Markcrow

Chris Smid