

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board
TUESDAY, March 14, 2017
10:00 am

Location of Meeting:

NRB – Dewey Building
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3201

Present at Meeting:

Board Members

Diane Snelling, Chair
Dominic Cloud, Member
William Boyd Davies, Esq., Member
Martha (Marty) Illick, Member

Staff

Gregory Boulbol, General Counsel
Aaron Brondyke, Enforcement Officer
Peter Gill, Associate General Counsel (by teleconference)
Kimberley Lashua, Business Director
Elexandra Arthers, Legal Technician

Absent from Meeting:

Don Sargent, Member
Lou Borie, Business Process Director

The Natural Resources Board meeting was called to order at 10:09 AM on March 14, 2017 at NRB – Dewey Building- by Diane Snelling.

I. Approval of the Minutes

Bill Davies made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14th 2017 meeting with the following corrections:

- On page 2, second to last sentence of H.45 (9(L)), remove the “ ‘s ” from applicant’s and add “to obtain” so the sentence results as below:
“It was noted that this bill contemplates changes to 9(L) that allows applicants to obtain a “town approval” to meet the criteria.”
- Also on page 2, last sentence of Act 171 (Forest Integrity), add the word “programming” after the word “permitting” so the sentence results as below:
“The Committee would have the charge to engage in strong public education and outreach, and to comprehensively review Act 250, and other permitting programing, to better produce the outcomes Vermonters want.”

Marty seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the motion.

II. Opportunity for Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

The Board received no comments on non-agenda items.

III. NRB, Office, and Budget Updates

Office:

The new NRB Executive Director, Donna Barlow Casey starts on March 27th. She brings with her a wealth of experience, and we are looking forward to working with her.

Lean:

We have started the second round of recording key performance indicators to look at the strengths, and room for improvement, in our paperless process. This data will be collected for the next 3 months and compared to the values collected last year.

IV. Action on pending Appeals and Enforcement matters

- No discussion on Appeals and Enforcement

V. Forum Examining the Evolving Role of the Natural Resources Board

Discussion started with Diane Snelling giving the Board copies of the proposed H.424 Bill for review and as a conversation starting point.

- The Board is very interested in, and encouraged by, this bill as it gives an opportunity to examine and strengthen the criterion that are unique to Act 250- while taking a broader look at permitting in the State of Vermont and evaluating which agencies are most qualified to handle situations where there is permitting overlap.
- The Board is also encouraged by the opportunity to continue examining best practices to balance what is at the heart of the Act 250 program- maintaining the environment and a focus on economic prosperity- and ensuring that permit application is a smooth and effective process.
- Bill Davies expressed that continued strengthening of our District Commissions and a focus on coordination with Municipalities are places we can look at improvement.
- This sentiment was echoed by Dominic Cloud when the Board was asked if they believed there should be a professional land use board. Dominic suggested that perhaps a better focus would be on bolstering the strengths of our commissions and staff members.
- Marty Illick agreed with this sentiment and suggested that the work we are doing to strengthen our technology and database, so that information is easy to search and access, will be vital in our growth.
- Marty Illick and Bill Davies called for an appropriate amount of time, before possible changes are made, to collect and fully evaluate data to identify areas for growth and areas that are already evolving with our Lean initiative and Management practices. This sentiment was echoed by the other members of the Board.

VI. Other Business; Adjourn

Due to inclement weather Bill Davies made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Marty Illick seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.