



Town of Bernardston
Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES: May 27, 2015

Select Board Members Present:
Robert Raymond, Chairman
Stan Garland

Others Present:
Peggy Sloan – FRCOG
Nancy Milkey, Tighe & Bond

Chairman Robert Raymond called the meeting to order at 8.38am.

Bob and Stan met with Peggy Sloan from the FRCOG to discuss the next steps in determining if the Fryenhagen property on the corner of Martindale Rd and Rt 10 (Northfield Rd) would meet the criteria for a Brownfields site assessment. Peggy introduced Nancy Milkey from Tighe & Bond an engineer who is working with the FRCOG on potential Brownfields sites with test monitoring and site assessment. The FRCOG has received a grant from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assist towns with this type of project.

Bob said the Selectmen dealt with this same site for Brownfields status in 2010, but the determination of ownership on the property for permission to gain access to the property proved to be overwhelming. This is the situation today. He said a sawmill operated on the site many years ago, but not for the last 15-20 years. It is hard to say if there is any degree of contamination on the site without testing the soil. The Fryenhagen property has been in tax title for many years. The Town has been reluctant to proceed with a taking given the unknown liabilities on the site. The land is zoned industrial and is in a potentially attractive location right on Rt 10.

Nancy Milkey explained the site testing process. There is no costs to the Town for testing. Cleanup costs are not included in the grant, if the Town did take property. Peggy stated the best way gain access is to have the Board of Health declare the property a public hazard. There are old dilapidated structures (house and barn) plus an old school bus in a serious state of decay in addition to other debris. Stan said he would support the BOH in any way to permit Town officials to conduct testing on the site.

Motion by Stan to seek help from the Board of Health and Town Counsel to allow Town personnel and/or their designated representatives to gain access to the Fryenhagen property on Martindale Rd for the purpose of conducting site assessment tests for Brownfields contamination, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Stan made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 8.55am. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

_____, Chair
Robert R. Raymond

_____, Member
Andrew I. Girard

_____, Member
Stanley D. Garland