

Earth Removal Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes 3-15-2016

Attendants:

Gene Bardon, ERAC

John Picariello ERAC

Bill Maher, ERAC

Milton Fistel, ERAC

Nelson Kessler, ERAC

The meeting was called to order by Gene at 6:30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the Earth Removal by-laws, section 13, established in 1994 in the Swampscott General by-laws. It has come to the attention of the ERAC that there are words, paragraphs, etc. that just don't apply to any current or future development within the town. The original purpose of the committee was to monitor and have a voice in the operation of the Swampscott quarry, no matter who the owner is. More recently the permitting process has moved into the residential area of the town with properties that were undesirable in the past. Many of the applications we are receiving require extensive earth removal to obtain a buildable lot and involve removal of ledge.

The application process set forth is very confusing and contains requirements, regulations, restrictions, penalties, etc. It is the intent of ERAC to make the process easier for applicants to follow and complete. That would mean that the application requirements would be separated from the general guidelines and the actual permit. This is not a simple process, and will take several meetings to decipher the content of the by-law. Of course the changes would then have to be approved by town meeting.

The meeting went through several of the changes that John had separated from the master by-law. Much discussion on several of the sections was heard by all members. In section 4, paragraph (b) the question was raised whether this shouldn't be removed. Gene suggested that the town engineer be questioned on this and how it applies to Swampscott.

Another topic was the requirement for test borings in relationship to top soil and the water table on the proposed site. No one could agree that the test pits/borings should be removed, quantity changed or kept as written.

The committee went through the entire application and permit section by section.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

No votes were taken.