

Town of Ferrisburgh
Ferrisburgh Town Plan Hearing # 2
June 27, 2017

Select Board: Members present: Loretta Lawrence, Rick Ebel, and Michael Muir
Members absent: Jim Benoit and Steve Gutowski

Attendees: Arabella Holzapfel, Carl Cole, Clark Hinsdale, Gail Blasius, Linda Field, Matthew Husk, Michael Quinn, Mike Wood, Stanley Field, and Susan Hinsdale

Loretta Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Rick Ebel updated the public regarding his extensive research on the “mapping change” in question. The approved 2006 Town Plan map shows that Clark Hinsdale’s property, in question, was in the Highway Commercial district. Somehow, the map was changed in 2017, showing that Clark’s property was moved in the North Business District. This would mean that Clark’s property would be taken out of the Highway Commercial District. Clark wants the mapped changed back to what it was in 2006 town plan.

Rick also stated that after all his extremely detailed investigation, he could not find any evidence supporting why the map was changed. He stated that after speaking with Regional Planning, he was assured that the mapping change did not come from their office. Regional Planning stated that the map change came from the Planning Commission.

Arabella Holzapfel and Gail Blasius both spoke strongly against making any changes to the map. Arabella stated that she felt it was too late for changes. She stated that people should have come before the planning commission earlier in the process. Arabella felt that changes could hold up the town plan.

Clark Hinsdale stated that he did come before the planning commission, at their very first hearing in March, 2017. He told the planning commission, at that time, that there was a problem with the map. Clark also stated that he has been in communication with the planning commission for the past two years and has not been able to get them to listen to him. He stated that he had emails/documents stating his communications with the planning commission and that he did contact them early in the process. Clark wants the select board to over-ride the mapping change and put it back to what it was. Discussion ensued.

Arabella Holzapfel brought maps to display for the hearing. These maps were very helpful. Discussion ensued. Rick Ebel stated that he would like to walk Clark’s property. He and Clark will set up a time to do that. Loretta Lawrence suggested that the simplest thing to do would be to change it back to the original map since there is no evidence or documentation as to why it was changed. This would be her recommendation.

Loretta said that the select board would need to schedule a third public hearing. The board would set that date at their July 3rd select board meeting. Before the next public hearing, the board will be researching whether a mapping change would be considered a “minor change” to the proposed town plan. If so, this would mean that the plan would not need to be sent back to the planning commission and that the select board could authorize the map change.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Lawrence, Chair