

**TOWN OF HOLLIS  
PLANNING BOARD  
34 Town Farm Road  
Hollis ME 04042**

8 January 2014

Minutes of Planning Board Meeting

**Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Town of Hollis Planning Board was called to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at the Hollis Community Building by David Goodwin, Chairman.

**Roll Call:** David Goodwin, Chris Roy, Faith Plummer, Victor Kirmes, CEO Peter Gordon.

Also present: Selectmen Ben Severance and David McCubrey

At 7:01 PM, moved and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing regarding Poland Spring's request for revision of Conditional Use Permit.

Following the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the regular Planning Board meeting was reconvened at 8:25 PM

**Review of Minutes:** The minutes of the 12-9-13 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

**Correspondence:** The secretary presented two announcements of future seminars that might be of interest to Board members.

**CEO Report:** Mr. Gordon stated that he has recently submitted his 2013 report to the Census Bureau indicating that in 2013, Hollis had 22 new residences, totaling over two million dollars in construction revenue. Further details of this report are available in the CEO's office.

**Old Business:** Board members discussed the input received at tonight's Public Hearing regarding request for revision of Poland Spring's CUP. Mr. Goodwin noted that the most relevant questions from the public were concerning the possibility of lowering the water table and running out of spring water in the area. These concerns were thoroughly addressed by Mark Dubois, hydro geologist, explaining that continuous monitoring shows no decrease, and water levels will continue to be closely monitored. Mr. Goodwin noted that the CUP revision also requires the approval of the DEP. This approval was received today, and a copy is on file with the Planning Board's records at the Town Hall.

Mr. Kirmes moved to approve the Conditional Use Permit revision to allow Poland Spring to extract up to a maximum of 207.7 million gallons of spring water yearly. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roy, and carried unanimously. The Chairman will issue official letter of approval to Poland Spring.

**New Business:** The Selectmen would like to schedule a workshop meeting with the Planning Board concerning some possible zoning changes that might be considered for presentation on the town warrant this year. With no other items pending before the Planning Board at this time, the workshop meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

No further business to be considered tonight; the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Minutes submitted by Martha Turner, Secretary

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(207) 929-8552**

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**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING  
Re: Poland Spring Conditional Use Permit**

Present: David Goodwin, Faith Plummer, Victor Kirmes, Chris Roy, Peter Gordon; plus Selectmen Ben Severance and David McCubrey.

The Public Hearing was called to order by David Goodwin at 7:02 PM on 1/8/14 at the Hollis Community Building.

Jonathan Edgerton, Wright-Pierce Engineering, presented an overview of the proposed revision to Poland Spring's Conditional Use Permit. When the bottling plant first requested their CUP, they requested permission to extract water up to a maximum of 207.7 Million Gallons per Year (MGY). The 207.7 figure was a design extraction. The state concurred with the calculations, but asked that the withdrawal rate be held at 75% (157 MGY) and data be gathered to confirm the calculations. The 15 years of data collection has now culminated in the extraction rate being requested to go to the full design extraction rate. According to the original CUP, all changes must be approved by the Planning Board and by the DEP.

Mr. Edgerton noted that the requested increase in water extraction will require no new construction, and employment levels are not expected to change. The only noticeable change will be a reduction in the number of trucks bringing water to the bottling plant from other sources around the state, such as Kingfield and Fryeburg. This will result in a decrease of approximately 3000 inbound tanker trucks per year. The number of outgoing trucks will not change.

Mark Dubois, hydro geologist with Poland Spring for the past ten years, presented detailed information regarding how the bottling plant monitors water levels. He explained that the water they use is extracted from the sand and gravel aquifer, which sits above the bedrock aquifer. He displayed several graphs and charts showing water levels remaining steady over the past thirteen years. Poland Spring monitors their own flumes and bore holes as well as several domestic wells in the area. The Hollis Code Enforcement Officer receives monthly reports on water levels.

The DEP also monitors the plant's water use, and their approval is also required for this CUP revision. The approval from the DEP was received today (1/8/14) and is on file at the Town Office with all related information.

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1-8-14

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Questions were raised by several community members who were present at tonight's meeting. The first concerned a rumor that the aquifer level was dropping at the rate of two feet per year. This concern was addressed by Mr. Dubois, who emphasized that the aquifer level has not dropped. Although there are always fluctuations due to precipitation variation and seasonal usage changes, the trends are very flat. Mr. Dubois noted that any significant drop in water levels would trigger an immediate response from Poland Spring and from DEP. He emphasized that if there was no spring water to be extracted, the spring water bottling plant would cease to exist. In response to a question regarding drawbacks, Mr. Dubois responded that the plant has never had to cut back on their water withdrawal, and only six times in ten years has the stream flow in Wales Pond Brook dropped to a level where DEP had to be notified. Those times were all related to a seasonal decrease in precipitation, and quickly resolved.

A question was raised concerning whether there is any environmental benefit related to the requested revision. Mr. Dubois noted that the decrease in the number of inbound tanker trucks will result in reduced carbon footprint. When asked about financial benefit for the company, he replied that this same reduction in trucking costs will be the primary benefit, although exact numbers were not immediately available.

The largest number of questions presented at tonight's hearing concerned the number of trucks taking unauthorized routes to and from the plant, and disregarding stop signs and speed limits. Mr. Dubois noted that these questions are not related to tonight's request for revision of CUP but he will have the plant's Logistics Manager contact each of the concerned individuals and discuss in detail all of these and similar problems. Mr. Goodwin noted that in addition to comments from those present at this Public Hearing, he has also received a letter from another similarly concerned resident. All of these notes and concerns will be kept on file with the Planning Board's records at the Town Hall.

Upon concluding that the Board had heard all comments and questions from everyone in attendance, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing at 8:24 PM