



Town of Woodstock
Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2026

Approved 9.14.26

Board Attendance: Lee Freeman, Kathryn Cordeiro, Bonnie Ham, Jerry Miserandino, Margaret LaBarge, Cathy Riley-Secretary

Board Zoom: Igor Bily, Scott Rice

Public Attendees: Ken Chapman, Colin Manning-NHEC, John Geronaitis-NHEC, Cory Keeffe, Rick Fabrizio-NHEC

Call to Order

Margaret called the Planning Board meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Colin Manning- NHEC Vegetation Management in Woodstock

Colin Manning introduced himself as the Director of Communications and Government Relations for the New Hampshire Electric Co-op. Colin then introduced John Geronaitis who is the Vegetation Management Supervisor, Cory Keeffe who is a Senior Arborist, and Rick Fabrizio who is also on the Communications and Government Relations team.

The group attended the meeting to address the Planning Board's concerns with the Vegetation Management herbicide to be used in Woodstock. The NHEC attendees explained the different methods and stated that vegetation management is extremely important to all utilities and the first line of defense.

The NHEC Arborists explained the different methods for vegetation control along the powerlines, with the first one being manual where they use climbers, pruners, and chainsaws. They added that the second method would be mechanical control with excavators and skid steers, mulchers and mowers, and the third method would be the chemical application using a selective, low volume herbicide. They added that they don't usually use the cut stump application because that treatment is slower. The last method was the biological control where they promote low-growing vegetation that can be planted in the right-of way.

The history of the IVM (Integrated Vegetation Management) program was explained that in the past, they had to clear out everything, which increased the costs, so they had to shorten the maintenance cycles over time with less manual and mechanical control by promoting the low-growing species instead. It was explained that the type of chemicals that they typically use is Krenite-S which is a bud suppressant that is a soluble liquid.

The Board members described their personal concerns with the chemicals being used and asked about the setbacks. The NHEC representatives stated that the process is heavily regulated and permitted by the State and EPA with the State mandated setbacks. For public wells, the setback is between 250 and 400 feet depending on the type, for public water supply and surface waters being 250 feet within 5 miles of the intake. For non-public waters, the setback is 25 feet, and NHEC self-mandated setbacks are 75 feet from private wells, 25 feet from vegetable gardens, and 75 feet from bee hives.

NHEC representatives went over the permit application process and the notification process to the Towns and the homeowners.

The representatives addressed the concerns of chemical drift, and explained that it is not broadcasted and are that they are very targeted with the application. It was noted that they also do not apply in windy weather, and that it is done on foot and in person, with the only time they might use a broadcast application would be in ledge areas that are too dangerous to access.

There was a discussion on the concern for the heavily forested area which is made up of over 90% National Forest, and numerous amounts of protected wetlands and waterways. The representatives noted that the requirements for the National Forest have their own requirements, and NHDES has maps on the protected waterways and that they add more of a buffer to be further than the requirements.

The NHEC representatives informed the Board that RSA430:39 states that the State's pesticide statute prevents municipalities from passing conflicting pesticide regulations and that it gives them permission to maintain the rights of way and that it gives them an obligation.

Different types of plants that are treated and not treated because of the type of herbicide used was discussed.

When questioned on whether the Town could do anything, the NHEC reps noted that because of the RSA law, they would not be able to opt out as a town, but property owner can opt-out from spraying. The Board discussed putting out a PSA to the residents that they have an opportunity to opt-out, and that it is on record that the Planning Board is opposing.

The Board asked if there could be more timely notifications instead of a broad time-frame, and NHEC replied that it is hard to do, since weather and distance can make it only an estimate.

The Board thanked NHEC for coming before them to address the Board's concerns and provide a lot of information.

Public Participation

Public Participation was moved up to accommodate Ken Chapman who wanted to make the Board aware of his concern that there may be unpermitted Excavation happening at a property north of his property on Eastside Road.

Ken explained that he had notice that numerous truckloads have been heading to a location in Lincoln, and that the noise from the trucks sometimes start very early in the morning and disturbs his family. The Board acknowledged that the first step will be to send a letter of concern of an unpermitted excavation site and invite to the next meeting, as well as to cease and desist until resolved.

Lee made the motion to send the letter to the property owners from the Board. Jerry seconded the motion and all votes were affirmative. The letter will be sent certified to get a proof of delivery.

The Board thanked Ken for coming forward to the Board with his concern.

Approval of June 8, 2026 Minutes

Lee made a motion to approve the minutes. Kathryn seconded the minutes and the vote was affirmative with Jerry abstaining because of absence.

Approval of July 13, 2026 Minutes

Jerry made a motion to approve the minutes. Bonnie seconded the minutes and the vote was affirmative with Lee and Kathryn abstaining because of absence.

Lot Merger: Jules & Paula Menard, 8 Resnick Circle and 6 Resnick Circle, map/lot 107-020 & 107-021

A completed application was received from Jules and Paula Menard for merging lots at 8 and 6 Resnick Circle. With no questions, the Board proceeded to vote on the approval of the merger.

Jerry made the motion to approve the merger. Lee seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative.

Reports of Officers & Committees

Selectmen's Representative Report – Scott did not have any updates at this time, will have some for the next meeting.

Earth Excavation Sub-committee – In the first few months of the year, Lee and Jerry went through the Excavation Regulations to make corrections and updates. The red-lined version previously went out to each of the Board members to review, and went through each of the items to be changed.

The Board voted to send the corrected version of the regulations to legal to review in order for the Board to vote to approve and certify. Lee made that motion, Jerry seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative.

Floodplain Sub-committee – No current updates at this time.

Masterplan Sub-committee – No current updates at this time.

Subdivision Ordinance Sub-committee – Margaret stated that the Subdivision ordinance subcommittee held a short meeting before the board meeting to work on one remaining piece of the ordinance that needed review before they send to legal to review. Lee went over a couple of items to revise again before sending off to legal.

Lee made a motion to send the revised Subdivision Ordinance to legal to review in order for the Board to vote to approve and certify.

Lee made a motion to approve the minutes. Kathryn seconded the minutes and the vote was affirmative.

Other Business

Margaret informed the Board that the Minor Subdivision that the Board approved at the last meeting has been completed

Margaret announced that the excavation pit inspections were scheduled for September 14th at 3:30 pm at the southernmost pit.

Correspondence Received by the Board

Margaret reminded the Board that there was an upcoming online seminar through BEA if any of the Board members were interested in attending.

Adjournment

Scott motioned to adjourn at 6:29 pm. Kathryn seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative.

Respectively Submitted,
Cathy Riley, Planning Board Secretary