## HOLLIS PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

## August 16th, 2016

## "FINAL"

1 2 3	<b>PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</b> : Cathy Hoffman – Chairman, Doug Cleveland – Vice Chairman, R. Hardy, Brian Stelmack, and David Petry, Ex-Officio for Selectmen, Bill Moseley – Alternate, Jeff Peters – Alternate.
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5	<b>ABSENT:</b> Chet Rogers, Dan Turcott, Ben Ming – Alternate, Wendy Trimble – Planning
6	Secretary
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8	STAFF: Mark Fougere, Town Planner
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10	1. <b>CALL TO ORDER:</b> The Chairman Cathy Hoffman called the meeting to
11	order at 7:00 pm.
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13	2. APPROVAL OF PLANNING BOARD MINUTES:
14 15	J. Peters moved to approve the minutes of July 19 <sup>th</sup> 2016. Motion seconded by B.
15 16	Stelmack. All in favor, none opposed. D. Cleveland abstained.
17	Stellilack. All ill lavol, none opposed. D. Cleveland abstanled.
18	B. Moseley moved to approve the site walk minutes of June 21st, 2016. Motion
19	seconded by B. Stelmack. All in favor, none opposed. C. Hoffman abstained.
20	seconded by Broteiniacia. This in layor, none opposed. Criticinian abstance.
21	3. DISCUSSION AND STAFF BRIEFING:
22	A. Agenda Additions and Deletions – None
23	B. Committee Reports – None
24	C. Staff Report – None
25	D. Regional Impact – None
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27	4. SIGNATURE OF PLAN –
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29	File #2807 – Proposed Conditional Use Permit and site plan for the installation
30	of a Ground Mounted Solar Energy System, Tolmac Solar LLC, 140 Ridge Road
31	Map 7 Lot 37
32	R. Hardy made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the plan #2807. D. Cleveland
33	seconded. All in favor none opposed.
34	Ele #9049 Let line releastion 40 of Flora Dood Man = Let 44 4 and 4=
35 36	File #2813 – Lot line relocation, 19–35 Flagg Road, Map 7 Lot 44-1 and 45.  R. Hardy made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the plan #2813. D. Cleveland
37	seconded. All in favor none opposed.
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40	5. File #2806 - Proposed site plan amendment for the Hollis Montessori School to
41	expand occupancy of the school from 120 students to 200, increase staff, expand the
42	number of parking spaces and improve traffic circulation, 9 South Merrimack Road, Map 36
43	Lot 32, Owner/Applicant Hollis Montessori School, R/A Residential Agriculture.
44	Application Acceptance – April 19, 2016, <b>tabled from July 19, Review period</b>
45	extended to August 16.
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47	M. Fougere introduced the application by updating the board with news that Hollis
48	Montessori School are going to the Zoning Board on August 25th, 2016 with a Special

Exception application. Attorney Brad Westgate wanted the opportunity to speak to the board tonight.

Brad Westgate, Lawyer with Winer & Bennett, LLP approached the podium representing Hollis Montessori School. He stated that following last month's meeting the landscaping plan and maintenance plan still remain outstanding items. These plans are not ready for action at tonight's meeting but there are a few other items he wanted to discuss briefly tonight to maybe make more efficient use of the time at next month's meeting. He stated for the record the timeframe for review by the board was extended through to tonight and they do agree to and commit that the timeframe be extended through to September 20<sup>th</sup> 2016. They fully understand that this application would be deferred to that next Planning Board Meeting.

The first item B. Westgate wanted to address was the landscaping. Since the last month's meeting, he confirmed the representatives of the school board have met with Tom Moran of Moran's Landscaping and they hoped to be working with T. Moran to achieve a goal and objective of pulling together a landscape plan and maintenance plan. The intent is to make these plans available 10 days prior to the next Planning Board Meeting.

M. Fougere also added at this point that Doug Gagne had provided the Planning Board with a letter. D. Gagne had visited the site at Rick's request, to look at the landscaping. He was involved with the original approval and was involved with the application. He has put together some recommendations and a copy had just been given to Brad Westgate to pass onto the appropriate persons at the school. B. Westgate thanked him, and confirmed he would pass it onto Moran's and those at the school working on the landscaping.

The second item that B. Westgate wanted to address at this meeting was the pickup contingency plan. It was discussed at the last meeting, but after reading the minutes it was not clear if the board had any remaining questions or concerns about it. He would like to address any concerns if there are any so it would be helpful if the board could confirm if there were any regarding the queuing contingencies, and if not then no time would be needed to deal with it next month.

C. Hoffman asked the board members if anyone had any issues with Plan B, i.e. doubling up of cars outside the school at pickup. R. Hardy stated that he was aware the school had asked for an extension of hours for the school into the evening, and he is concerned that if the Fire Chief had requested that no parking is permitted along the loop to the bunkhouse, where would people park and also is there enough parking for the requested increase in students from 120 to 200 and staff from 10 to 25. Is there enough additional parking for teachers and staff?

B. Westgate responded in reverse, stating that the plan before the Planning Board calls for an additional 21 parking spaces that would meet the calculation of 200 students (1 per 12) and the 25 staff. This plan would meet the parking requirements under the site plan regulations for a 200 student enrolment and 25 staff, so yes there would be sufficient onsite parking. R. Hardy asked what happens if there are parents for a school play or other events, where are all the extra cars parking. B. Westgate said that with any school setting there is always an issue with temporary need for parking on events. R. Hardy wanted to know how can the board be sure that the school would follow the fire chief's recommendation of 'no

parking' if they don't know where these extra cars would park. B. Westgate said they would have to follow the recommendation.

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B. Westgate continued to explain what was being requested. He said they have filed for an application for a special exception, with the zoning board of adjustment, which will be heard on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2016. This was to explain the background to his response. This application has been filed, because they have tried but were unable to get an administrative determination as to what the scope of 2010 special exception would permit in terms of regular school day activity verses extracurricular activities or events, the nub of the primary issue before both boards. He said they are not asking for an expansion of hours as you perhaps thought, but they are trying to get definition from the zoning board as to what constitutes the regular school day activities, and what constitutes the extracurricular or beyond the regular school hours activities. We have been unable to get that administratively as the board knows, in May, the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Dave Gagnon, issued a letter to the school commenting on uses that were occurring after the regular hours. The school has appealed that letter and this is also before the zoning board but it has become clear that route is not going to give them the definition they need. Hence they have filed a new special exception application. So what they are seeking is defining what happens in a regular school day and defining what can happen beyond a regular school day. They are not expanding hours per say but setting forth what can happen 8 to 3 verses what can happen beyond 8 to 3. In terms of parking when you have such things as a school play in the evening, the only way to think about this is you cannot design a parking lot for a school that will accommodate 100 cars for example for rare occasions. This does not make planning sense and the regulations don't call for it. He added that the Fire Chief has stated that he does not want parking on the gravel loop road (except for 6 proposed parking spaces), but from talking to the schools engineer there is a possibility that he would be open to parking along the loop if it was more defined as gravel shoulders and clarity of where the road is verses where the shoulders are. So that still needs to be worked out a bit. R Hardy stated that the looped road is not paved anyway. He confirmed what he was concerned about was if the school is having these events, where are people going to park, he was not suggesting that it needs to be paved, but it should be shown on the plan with how many cars it can accommodate. B. Westgate said he would report back to the engineer.

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C. Hoffman asked if the board had any further questions about plan B. B. Westgate said that K. Headington was with him tonight and she may be able to address some further questions better than him. R. Hardy asked, if there were to be evening events is there any plans to install lighting, as a safety issue, as the abutters need to know this. B. Westgate said he would pass this question onto Hayner-Swanson. He does not think there is any new lighting proposed on the site although there is cut of lighting approved on the bunkhouse.

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145 146 Doug Cleveland asked if the final plan to be presented to the Planning Board after next week's zoning board meeting and they make their decisions, will be the final plan including all the parking amendments, etc, fully explained, and that over the next 5, 10 or 20 years will there will be no more expansion, no further changes amendments, or can we anticipate more changes coming before the Planning Board. B. Westgate stated the goal of the zoning board meeting is to have clarity on uses, for a school with an enrolment of up to 200 students. The school has stated it will take time and a reasonable significant period of time to reach this number of students, if it is ever reached. If there are changes to the site in the

future they would be under that umbrella of the special exception which we will hopefully 147 see granted next week, for up to 200 students. There could conceivably be site plan changes 148 in the future, that would obviously have to go before this board, whether they are 149 150 reconfigurations of buildings, internal changes, a change in traffic flow or parking, those possibilities will always exist and they would have to come back to the Planning Board. D. 151 Cleveland stated that one thing that the board was not in favor of was a piecemeal approach 152 where things get change incrementally every few years such as a request for more parking, 153 change to loop road, athletic field and facilities, building expansion or new buildings. We 154 would rather see the overall big picture now. B. Westgate suggested that we would not see 155 156 in the foreseeable future any intent to go back to the zoning board or to expand the enrolment to more than 200 students, if in fact that is what happens next week, but he 157 cannot rule out changes in the site that would need to come back before the Planning Board 158 159 but he hears his point. D. Cleveland stated that basically he would like it done right the first time. 160

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B. Westgate addressed the chairman and stated that he feels comfortable with Plan B and suggested that he hears R. Hardy points regarding parking but that is a little different from Plan B issue which was addressing pick up time for the school day.

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B. Westgate stated the last item he wanted to discuss today was the discussion the board had in the meeting on July 19th regarding a change of use or expansion of use. The board had some concerns acting on the plan because of that possible issue. B. Westgate wanted to state for the record from reading the minutes of the July meeting he got the sense that some members of the board are concerned that what is being proposed is either a change of use or an expansion of the existing use and that some action at the zoning board level had to be taken. The school has now filed the application for special exception but they have really been working on that concept before the July 19th meeting, not so much in the idea that they thought they were expanding the use as respectfully they don't think they are, but because of the need to clarify what is going on in regular school hours verses outside regular school hours. This is the primary reason the school filed the special exception application, because administratively that has not been determined and town staff and the school need guidance on that point. However the Planning Board raised a couple of things in July that gave rise to the concern about expansion of use. One was the placement of the athletic field on the plan and the other was the conversion of the bunkhouse and use of the bunkhouse for classroom space. B. Westgate stated he does not think that either of these rise to that level. He said the initial one becomes moot should the zoning board grants the special exception application. However he wanted to get across their thought process. This application and site plan approval was accepted as complete on April 2016 when the process started. Obviously if the board accepted the application as complete application then the school thought that zoning issues and base engineered planning issues were satisfied or else it would not have been accepted as complete and the public hearing process would not have started. So that in itself does not indicate an expansion of use or change of use before you as the process has been ongoing for several months based on a complete application. But also when these two points are examined, and putting them aside, this board has already dealt with the change of use of the bunkhouse in 2012, when the school requested the bunkhouse to be used for school related activities, and this was approved. So the bunkhouse has already been dealt with under the umbrella of the 2011 special exception. He went on to say the athletic field is nearly too grand a description of what it is. It is really just an area of grass with two soccer nets at either end set up for recreational and recess

purposes primarily for the school. This is now noted on the plan to show where it is but obviously athletics is a part of any school, as is classrooms a component of any school, so he does not think by nature they are an expansion of use. If they board have any other reasons to think of the expansion of use then they need to know the rational.

C. Hoffman responded by explaining that the board had received changes to the plan in July after the board had accepted the application as it was in the beginning in April. One of the changes was adding the use of the bunkhouse to be used for classrooms. There is a big difference between using the bunkhouse for classrooms when the kids are going to be in it all day from 8-3 compared to using it as a project room with occasional use. The athletic field was not even delineated on the plan at the beginning. She stated that the Board requires from a site plan to show everything that the site will be used for now and in the future. Frank Grossman was asked at a meeting if the athletic field had the potential to be used as a full size athletic field in the future and he responded that everything has potential. So in the future it could be a regulation field and if so it could be used by other people other than the school, and be rented out for soccer practices, etc. Also expanding to 200 students from 120 students is quite an increase and for the record the applicant set the limit at 120 student and 10 staff in the original application.

D. Petry wanted to ask M. Fougere a few questions. He wanted to confirm did the original special exception ask for what hours of operation. M. Fougere stated it said 'No after school or weekend teaching activities and all main school activities shall occur between the hours of 8 am and 3 pm Monday through Friday.' D. Petry stated it said 8 am to 3 pm it means 8 to 3. He would assume the later pick up of a student would be no big deal but the board does not want long lines after 4 or 5 pm because of another activity. D. Petry then asked about the special exception that has been received by the zoning board, was this after we had received indications from Town Council, that it was an expansion of use? M. Fougere confirmed correct. D. Petry stated that even if town staff disagrees with that recommendation the Planning Board are basing their decision and what they believe their path forward is based on our Town Council. He added, the board has been advised it is a change of use and that is how they are approaching this application. He feels the original special exception is very clear and the school may disagree, so to be clear, now there are more changes to the plan if the special exception is approved, what are the new hours of operation the school is asking for?

B. Westgate stated they had asked the zoning board for the same concept of 8 am – 3 pm for what they are calling regular school day activities, as this is the term they would like to use. But then they are asking the zoning board to define regular school day activities. D. Petry asked what the schools end game is? Is it 5 pm or 6 pm? He wants to avoid more confusion. B. Westgate said it would not be confusing if they could get definitiveness from a zoning board determination. A school has a lot of things that happen outside 8 to 3. Obviously there are activities between 8-3 and after 8-3. He said that Dave Gagnon, Building Inspector recognized that when he sent the letter to the school that he recognizes there are activities that occur outside of 8-3. He described what he thought were ok activities beyond 8-3 and those that were not ok. So clearly the special exception contemplates some things between 8-3 and other things beyond 8-3. The problem is there is no definitiveness. If the zoning board defines clearly, regular school day activities and extracurricular activities then everyone will know what has to happen 8-3 and what has to happen beyond 8-3. They have

detailed for the board exactly what activities will occur and give an overall time frame, a sense of how frequently they occur, and that sort of thing. They do not want uncertainty. D. Petry referred to the special exception application that was submitted to the zoning board. He said to be clear, that what B. Westgate has described as trying to understand the determination is not what they have asked for in the hours of operation. They have asked for extension from 3 pm to 10 pm Monday through Friday, and 8 am to 10 pm at weekends, with occasional overnight stays at weekends. So for the record they have gone beyond just asking for an explanation. B. Westgate stated that this needed to be taken into context the hours of operations are for the extracurricular activities and events, not for full school blown events. They are asking them to find specific findings and specific definitions that will be submitted the next day to the zoning board, to ask them to define precisely what main school activity means and what extracurricular are.

D. Petry stated that is he concerned and feels the board should be concerned about getting a balance between what the schools wishes are and how disruptive this will be to the neighbors. And as R. Hardy stated also, if they plan of having evening performances, the site will not accommodate the number of cars that will show up for 200 students for a performance without parking on South Merrimack Road. South Merrimack Road is not suitable to park on. B. Westgate appreciated that point. D. Petry addressed M. Fougere and asked as this proposal is asking to increase students from 120 to 200, is the septic system suitable for these numbers. The exact number would be sent to the board. B. Westgate finished by stating that in 2010 the zoning board as part of its approval gave as its condition hours of 8 – 5 Monday to Friday, but also a recommendation for the Planning Board to give its recommendation for the number of students. The zoning board did not impose a student number limitation. The numbers of students that are enrolled now are based on parking lot calculations. No one really put down an enrollment mandate. The enrollment is governed by parking. C. Hoffman disagrees with that statement as the applicant asked for 120 students. R. Hardy added that parking obviously did not work as the traffic was backing up onto the South Merrimack Road regularly. He also asked how they will accommodate the abutters with the new information on the site plan. C. Hoffman added that the abutters will get a chance to speak at the zoning board meeting and the Planning Board will also schedule in the September meeting another public hearing.

B. Westgate concluded by respectfully asking for this application is deferred to the September meeting. R. Hardy made a motion to table this application to September  $20^{th}$ , D Petry seconded. All in favor none opposed.

**6. File #2809** – Design Review: Site plan review, proposed storage buildings replacing approved landscaping yard, 250 – 254 Proctor Hill Road, Applicant Erich Mueller Owner Island Time Realty, LLC, Map 11 Lot 24, Zoned IN Industrial. **Public Hearing.** 

M. Fougere introduced this design review application that was before the board last month; it is on the site of an old landscaping site out on Route 130. This site plan outlines a proposal to construct 54,300 square feet of self storage units in 8 buildings. This site has been approved for a number of uses in the past, including a landscaping yard and a driveway seal coating company. Porous pavement will be used to address drainage conditions on the property.

He added the proposed plan will use the two existing driveways to access the site; one of the storage buildings will lie perpendicular to Proctor Hill Road and is 340 feet long. This building would provide some screening from the proposed use, but is also an extremely long building creating a rather large mass along the street. The Board may want to consider this in their discussions. No connections to adjoining properties are proposed. There was a landscaping plan showing two alternative ideas. The plan has been reviewed by Dennis LaBombard, the town engineer and he has submitted a report. M. Fougere included in his list a number of issues. He has asked that they show a prohibition of hazardous materials on the plan, and also include salt use on site. He also asked for a maintenance plan or requirements for the porous pavement and for clarity on the 100 foot wetland buffer at the back of the site and a buffer line should be clearly marked in the field and silt fence installed prior to any work starting on the site. More details are needed for proposed lighting and a note should be added to the plan stating that all site lighting is downcast and if any other lights on the site.

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David Petry asked a question regarding the new plan submitted showing the side elevations of the building. D. Cleveland asked if the square footage remained the same. It is almost 100 sq ft difference.

Chad Brannon, Fieldstone Land Consultants representing the applicant Erich Mueller and Island Time Realty, had approached the podium and was answering these questions. The plans were conceptually presented to the Planning Board in June. In the beginning it was being looked at 2 dimensionally with a layout. Since then the board requested a design review. They had touched on the preferred orientation of the buildings and he would like the board's feedback on this layout. His client had gone with the new layout as his perception was that the original layout of a building running parallel to the road would be preferred by the board as it hid the site, but after new plans were done showing the side elevations C. Brannon felt this may be better. He added that they are proposing a significant amount of landscaping along the front also. But they want to achieve the balance of a commercial building in the right setting. They do not intend to put a hedge along the front but to plant some street trees and or shrubs to present it appropriately.

The other element to this design is the porous pavement which comes with a regimented maintenance plan that discourages the applicant from using it. The State has permitted this porous pavement for about 10 years. It's a great product for the right application. This site is a good use of the product primarily because of low traffic but also because the applicant maintains porous paying as part of his job and has the equipment. It reduces the need for large areas of storm water management, which would be unsightly. They are proposing one infiltration basin, in the south east corner of the site, which will encroach in the wetland buffer. If the board chooses to prefer the new site layout, it could be moved somewhat to the north but this would not prevent complete encroachment in the wetland buffer. They are impacting as they cannot route the storm water runoff from the east part of the site, to get it back into the porous area due to the depth. They have tried to minimize the wetland buffer impact, with the smaller infiltration basin. The remainder of the storm water for the site is routed through a perimeter swale into the porous media or infiltrated along the way. The site is self contained. They have no problems with any comments raised by D.

LaBombard all his comments and concerns will be addressed.

- Lighting has not been planned for this site as building orientation will change it. But this can be included once the preferred layout is decided. All details will be included.
- C. Hoffman asked what restrictions would there be on storage. C. Brannon did not have these details but he would get a list and put notes on plans.

- J. Peters asked if the porous surface self thaws and what is the height of the buildings. C.
   Brannon confirms it does and the building is about 12 14 feet high. This would be in the final plan. J. Peters confirmed his question was regarding visibility from the road over the plantings and landscaping.
- B. Stelmack asked where the main office would be positioned on site for customers. C.
  Brannon confirmed that interestingly they have no offices and people go about renting the
  premises by contacting a central office. The site would have a keypad. It is a completely
  gated and locked facility from the road. It is normally a six foot high, chain linked black
  vinyl coated fence. However the site right now is boarded primarily by conservation land
  and fencing is the site as a whole comes with a cost. If the board felt is needed to be fenced
  then the applicant will consider as security is always a concern.
  - J. Peters asked what the weight limit of trucks, would be on the porous paving if any. C. Brannon said it can be designed to handle large trucks, but with large trucks by turning the wheel the surface can break down. The site will only be able to handle smaller trucks, but this will be looked at in the final design. They will ask the fire department to look at the plan to ensure they will be able to access it with a fire engine.
  - B. Stelmack asked if there would be any parking overnight of vehicles on site. C. Brannon stated there is normally no overnight parking on site or outdoor storage or parking proposed.
  - C. Hoffman considered the proposal to be open 24/7 for people to have access and asked C. Brannon to clarify. He said there was never much problem with this type of use and it was considered light use. As there are no light inside the units it will regulate the usage as you won't see at night.
  - R. Hardy said when the project was first presented to the board, it was said that there was lots of screening to the west side. He does not see it on the plan, so would there been an intention to install screening on the west side. C. Brannon said he would review that with his client. Even though they own that parcel now if they ever choose to sell it then it would need to be screened and this needs to be clarified.
  - R. Hardy also requested a scaled plan to be presented to the board 10 days prior to the Planning Board meeting. He also commented that 8 of the 20 trees on the plan are evergreen and typically the plantings are required to be in keeping with the rural character, maybe in front of the fence there could be a few more evergreens to help screening.
  - Dave Petry asked if there was any opportunity for expansion on this property. For example if the site next door was considered for expansion that a lot line is removed and they wanted to expand and that would mean a new site plan application would be required. So for the record this site is built-out with this plan.

The members of the board agreed they preferred seeing the site plan showing gable ends of buildings as opposed to having the full width elevation facing the road.

Dennis LaBombard the consulting engineer for the Town, approached the podium. He has looked at the porous pavement issue as it is relatively new and nothing like this in Hollis. He felt it is a good system on the right site, and this appears to be a good site for it. He referred to his letter dated August 11, 2016 and highlighted his comments from that letter. He asked for further information to be given with the application regarding the infiltration basin and reservoir layer. He also stated there should be an overflow system of some kind. Maintenance is critical and a maintenance plan is required.

C. Hoffman asked if any abutter wished to speak. XX from Hollis spoke from the audience and said his only concern was the porous pavement but after hearing D. Labombard he is ok with it. No one else wished to speak.

Doug Cleveland made a motion to move File #2809 to final design. J. Peters seconded. All in favor none opposed.

## Other issues

 M. Fougere wanted to bring the board up to date with a couple of issues. The State statute with regard to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) has changed. Hollis has allowed ADU but some communities did not allow them, and now they have to allow them. They require special exception and our ordinance needs to be changed to say the minimum area is 750 sq ft. We can keep our maximum to be 800 sq ft.

M. Fougere also said that a couple of weeks ago there was an application that got denied before the zoning board for elderly housing asking for a variance on the size of the property and reduce the age to 55. Our ordinance states the acreage is 30 acres and age is 62. They wanted a variance on the acreage and age. The zoning board asked where did these figures originate from and would the planning board consider amending them. R. Hardy and D. Petry asked that the zoning board put something in writing in a formal memo for consideration.

J. Peters asked the board if there had been any consideration given to increasing the acreage on properties from 2 acres to help keep the rural character. After discussion between members of the board, it was decided to leave well alone.

D Cleveland made a non debatable motion to adjourn the meeting. R. Hardy seconded. All in favor none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

433 Respectively submitted by,

- 435 Wendy Trimble
- 436 Planning Secretary

437 Town of Hollis, NH