

Appleton Planning Board

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024

Attending Members: Ed Carroll, Gary Roberts, David Kelley

Also attending: Peter Connant, CEO. Jenness Gushee, resident.

Reviewed and approved minutes from March meeting.

Peter reports that he has visited waterfront property owned by Jenness Gushee to review concerns regarding risky trees along the shoreline. Jenness reports that wind and water have been eroding the soil under the roots of trees on the bank and they are leaning toward the pond. "The only reason I'm having these trees cut down is because they are going to fall and take the bank with it." Peter agrees that this seems to be a likely result of leaving the trees. A "Report by Rule" has been requested from the Maine DEP for guidance on how to proceed.

Ed points out that trees that are already dead, or are hazards, can be removed without Planning Board approval. Cutting the trees near the shore could help prevent further erosion from underneath. The purpose of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance is to protect the shore and water quality. "Your goal is to take out as few as possible in order to preserve the shore."

Peter presented a survey of the property with the trees at risk and safe trees on the property. He looked for ways to offset the removal of the risky trees but concludes "I don't think you need to add any trees because there is no place to put them."

Ed made a motion to approve having the CEO guide development of a hazard tree and storm damage tree removal plan. The Board voted 3-0 to approve the motion.

Adjourned.