

TOWN OF HAMPDEN MASSACHUSETTS

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Greg D'Agostino
Cindi Connors, Assoc. Member

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION Regular Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes September 21, 2022

Approved: October 19, 2022

Meeting called to order: 09/21/2022 @ 6:07pm

Members Present: Judy McKinley-Brewer, Chair, Ted Zebert Co-Chair, Thom Page, Andrew Netherwood, Greg D'Agostino, Cindi Connors and John Cushman (6:35pm).

Members Absent:

Invited Guests: Rory Walker, Jonathan Guinipero, Steve Riberdy, Nick Facendola and Phil London

Also Present: Darla Iavicoli, Judie Gagnon, Carolyn Stabilo, Gina Stabilo, Cindy Galavotti, Joe Galavotti, Sandra Howell, Dave Nayem, Mary Nayem, Ed Iavicoli, John Matthews, Donald Davenport, David Schmidt and Janey McCarthy

Public Comment: None prior to start of meeting

Agenda Items:

Notice of Intent, Hickory Lane, Hampden MA Project #21-84042 /Somers Rd (Bridge #H-04-022) MA DEP 173-0234:

Hearing opened at 6:09pm (Andrew Netherwood left the table and recused himself) Phil London the SWCA scientist presented this project via Zoom. A Notice of Intent was submitted by Eversource for Hickory Lane and Somers Road to install 150 linear feet of 2 inch and 6 inch of gas distribution lines. A trench will be required; this will be approximately 2-3 feet wide and 4 feet deep and will be back filled at the end of each day with excess soils being removed from the site. Additionally, SWCA will provide an environmental monitor/inspector who will be on site most days.

Additional Conditions for Eversource Gas Extension – Hickory Lane and Somers Road – DEP # 173-0234

- *Erosion control barriers must be placed between the proposed work area and the wetland resource areas or buffers to avoid excavation spillage. Appropriate erosion controls will consist of straw wattles or similar alternative.*
- *Catch basins must be protected with filter fabric or barriers to ensure that sediments do not enter the drainage system.*
- *No work shall be performed adjacent to resource areas or catch basins during heavy rain conditions to minimize runoff and washout situations. Project area must be repaved prior to major weather events.*
- *Work with loose soil should be limited to that which can be completed and restored within a day. Unavoidable soil stockpiles must be outside resource areas or buffers, must be covered and must be surrounded with barriers, if left overnight.*
- *Erosion controls will be inspected on a regular basis and maintained in working condition until all disturbed areas are stabilized.*
- *In the event that trench dewatering is necessary, water will be pumped from the excavation to a dewatering container. Under no circumstances will trench water, or other forms of turbid water, be directly discharged onto or into any wetland or waterbody.*
- *Since the gas pipe will be underground there is a presumption that there will be no permanent alteration of the landscape. All non-paved areas will be replaced to a state at which they were prior to the job. Any sod or other plantings shall be replaced in kind, or with reasonable alternative.*

A motion was made to approve the project with the additional Order of Conditions listed above. Vote 4-0 in favor, 1 recused. Hearing closed at 6:37 pm.

Request for Determination of Applicability 00 Stafford Road Danielle Moriarty Plank: Hearing opened at 6:37 pm. Landowner unable to connect to meeting via Zoom. This request was to cut 1 acre of forested land and install a driveway. Mapping shows NHESP and a hydrological crossing. Andrew motioned to continue the hearing until October 19, 2022, awaiting a response from MA Endangered Species Act (MESA), Ted seconded. Hearing continued to October 19, 2022 at 6 pm.

Continuance of ANRAD review 530 Glendale Road Solar LLC: Hearing opened at 6:40 pm. This is a continuation of the Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation. The Commission received a letter of concern and Judy explained that the majority of the letter was directed at issues that would be covered in the Notice of Intent, (NOI) process. Tighe & Bond provided the Commission with an Amendment to the Proposal for Peer Review Services to cover the new information expected to be presented in this meeting from the revised plan and map. Rory Walker approved the expense and the Commission voted in favor (6-0) to accept the contract. (6:44pm Gregory D'Agostino excused himself from the meeting)

Steve Riberdy from Goddard Consulting had updated the flagging and Nick Facendola from Level Design Group stated that they did not disagree with the new flagging. The additions and edits to the mapping were reviewed. Gina Stabilo had questions on several flagged areas, some of which will be addressed during the new review. She went on to question the area by the barn, and asked if the culvert at the property line will be depicted on the map and was advised that only if Tighe & Bond think that the culvert is relevant. Gina Stabilo questioned permanent markers for the edge of the buffer zone and Andrew advised that those would be part of the NOI phase. She went on to question if the track on the property needed to be mapped and Judy advised that there was/is an extensive drain system under the track.

Judy stated this hearing would be continued to the October 19, 2022 meeting and asked Steve Riberdy if he had a time frame when Tighe & Bond might get out to the property and send an updated report to include final findings that the Commission could then provide to Rory Walker? Rory Walker was agreeable to wait until the October 19, 2022 meeting. Carolyn Stabilo commented that she wouldn't have access to new map and therefor would not have time to point out what was not agreeable. Judy offered that the map would be finalized by the end of the October 19, 2022 meeting. Joe Galavotti commented that there are other solar farms on fields and asked that we look at the big picture and is it common sense to put 'this' right 'there'. Judy advised the both the Planning and Select boards have a say in this project as well and that the Conservation Commission has limited bylaws. Carolyn Stabilo asked if Tighe & Bond had taken soil samples and if someone was checking those, Judy replied 'yes'

Ted made a motion to continue to October 19, 2022 and Thom seconded, all in favor 5-0. Hearing continued to October 19, 2022 at 6 pm.

General Discussion:

Currently we need to arrange site visits for 00 Stafford Road and South Road property. Judy shared that Melissa at Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program did not have the map from the subject property from 2016. We have an impending forestry issue; property was last forested 40 years ago through another property

With no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm, all in favor 5-0

/clc