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TOWN OF HAMPDEN MASSACHUSETTS



Conservation Commission
Bonnie Geromini, Chair
Judy McKinley Brewer
Ted Zebert
Andrew Netherwood
John Cushman

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION Public Hearing Meeting Minutes September 23, 2020 Town House

Approved: October 21, 2020

Meeting called to order: 9/23/2020 @ 7:00pm

Members Present: Bonnie Geromini, Chair, Ted Zebert, Judy McKinley-Brewer, Andrew Netherwood and John Cushman

Members Absent: None

Invited Guests: Stephen Herzog, Wood Massachusetts, Steve McDonough, Ameresco

Also Present: Thom Page, Cindi Connors, Jason Grundstrom, Planning Board Member John Matthews, Sam Gibson, and Lynn Dgetluck

Minutes: None presented

Public Comment: None prior to start of meeting

Agenda Items:

7:00pm PUBLIC HEARING on ANRAD* submitted by Wood Massachusetts:

(*Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation, ANRAD), has been received for a proposed solar array on the town landfill.

Steve Herzog and Steve McDonough reviewed the resource area(s), the bordering vegetated wetlands BVW, what they feel are two very small isolated vegetated wetlands, a non contested perennial stream. Commissioners asked where panels would be located and were told on the cap, facing south.

There are no proposed wetland or buffer zone impacts, all work will be in uplands.

Question on use of electricity generated, will be used to furnish power to transfer station, (not likely), instead may be sold to a public entity for community solar administration who will then furnish to low to middle income households. Judy asked if they were setting aside 12 acres, plans are to have a conservation restriction on approximately nine acres around the stream and adjacent land.

Andrew questioned how the panels would be rested on the cap and Steve McDonough replied that there would be concrete ballasts set on top of the landfill, and that they would not be piercing the cap. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, (NHESP), has not responded yet and the proponents are hoping to hear from them with an answer by Friday, September 25th.

The Department of Environmental Protection, (DEP), has issued file #173-0228 with their comments and clarification request(s)

Sam Gibson asked about the expected impact on the homes below the East side of the landfill if there is extensive clearing. John Cushman expects that the storm water report will address this and Ted explained the peer review process. Andrew asked if the proponents plan on filing a Notice of Intent, (NOI).

A copy of the Hampden Conservation Commission consultant review proposal from Stockman Associated was given to Steve Herzog for review. A Peer review contract for signature and payment will be emailed tomorrow. The Commission will plan to attend the site walk with Emily Stockman and the proponents.

Bonnie made a motion to continue the Hampden Landfill Solar Project ANRAD Public hearing to October 28th at 7:15pm Ted seconded, all in favor 5-0. With that motion the Public Hearing was closed and the regular meeting resumed

General Discussion:

John Matthews from the Planning Board address the Conservation Commission with regards to Storm Water reports and which department should start the process. General consensus is that the process will start with Conservation and be reviewed for resource areas, and if there are none then Conservation will notify planning who will then proceed with the process. Planning currently uses Tighe & Bond. A flowchart is in process to streamline projects and ensure that all necessary departments are notified/involved.

Andrew made a motion to close the meeting at approximately 8:11pm, John seconded the motion which was then approved by a unanimous vote of 5-0

/clc