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TOWN OF HAMPDEN MASSACHUSETTS



Conservation Commission
Bonnie Geromini
Judy McKinley Brewer
Ted Zebert
Andrew Netherwood
Tim Hanley

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION Meeting Minutes September 18, 2019 Town House

Amended & Approved: October 16, 2019

Meeting called to order: 9/18/2019 @ 7pm

Members Present: Bonnie Geromini, Chair, Ted Zebert, Tim Hanley and Judy McKinley-Brewer

Members Absent: Andrew Netherwood

Invited Guests: Melissa Kaplan, Eversource, Ethan LaFreniere, Michelle LeDoux, Jason Barroso, Thom Page

Also Present: Alan Weiss, David Carabine, Dan Carabine, Amanda Carabine, and Heather Carabine

Bills/Correspondence: none

Agenda Items:

7pm WMECO dba Eversource Energy – Melissa Kaplan from the BSC Group attended the meeting to discuss the continued replacement of ROW 3419, transmission line and the mitigation of the riverfront area impacts and the bordering lands subject to flooding. They are widening the road to 16 feet, adding gravel on each side which will cause a permanent impact. Work along the Watchaug brook will be exempt under utility maintenance. Any material that is excavated will be placed in the upland. This will be an approximate 5,000 square foot impact. Any debris in the stream will be removed by hand and the ATV trail will be replanted with shrubs and boulders to block the stream crossing. The boulders will be placed in the right of way near structure number 23138. They are no longer moving sod and grass per Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) directive and will add plants instead. Work will be performed between December and February with spring planting by hand during May to June. This Notice of Intent, (NOI) is only for four of the 22 structures the remaining 18 were under the previous submission that was a negative determination. NHESP wants two years of monitoring of the plants (these will be flagged by a botanist). Conservation Commission will be viewing area at approximately 2pm on September 26th.

7:15pm Ethan LaFreniere, 294 Glendale Road Alan Weiss from Cold spring Environmental accompanied Ethan LaFreniere to discuss the Request for Determination of Applicability, (RDA) for his failed septic system. It is in the 50-100 foot buffer zone due to the offset of his well. This has been approved by Lorri McCool from the Board of Health. After a brief discussion *Bonnie made a motion to issue a negative determination #3, with the condition that the silt fence be installed as per plan. Ted seconded the motion, all in favor 4-0*

7:30pm Erin Palmer and Eric LaPorte, 1 Howlett Hill Road: An RDA was submitted for location of an accessory building. After discussion, the Conservation Commission feels this is non jurisdictional and *Bonnie motioned to issue a negative determination as th placement was not within a buffer zone or wetland area, Ted seconded, all in favor 4-0*

Minutes The August 21, 2019 minutes were reviewed, and corrections noted. *Bonnie made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Ted seconded, all in favor 4-0.*

7:45pm Michelle LeDoux, 420 Main Street: An RDA to remove trees along the Scantic River was submitted and a site inspection has been completed. The trees are all dead and need to be removed, Judy added that there are several other trees in the vicinity that are also dying.. *Bonnie made a motion to issue a negative determination #2 and to allow the cutting of four (4) dead trees at 420 Main Street along the Scantic River. There will be no stump grinding, no bank disturbance, no heavy equipment, and any grassy slope area that is disturbed will be reseeded. Permission is extended for three (3) years for other trees in the same area that are dying. Judy seconded, all in favor 4-0.*

8pm Jason Barroso, 239 Ames Road: This is a request for an extension of an Order of Conditions, (OOC). A site inspection has been completed. The current extension will expire on October 23, 2019 and Jason would like another extension to continue the construction of his home. *Bonnie made a motion to issue a three year extension, (10/23/2019 through 10/23/2022), both Ted and Judy seconded, all in favor 4-0*

Other Business:

David Carabine, Dan Carabine, Amanda Carabine, and Heather Carabine are interested in purchasing adjoining lots on Kibbe Lane. Pete Levesque has changed the request from a Notice of Intent, (NOI) to an RDA. Dan Carabine added that nothing will be within 100 feet of the wetlands and Pete has drawings. Bonnie asked if any stakes were in place to show the proposed location of the homes and Heather Carabine responded that they are not closing until October. Judy suggested that they Carabines have Pete flag the areas for houses, wells and septic systems, then fill out and submit the RDA paperwork and include Pete's plans. If the RDA and plans can be brought to the Conservation Commission prior to October 1st then this can be published and added to the October 16, 2019 meeting agenda.

General Discussion:

Tim suggested that the Conservation Commission consider drafting a letter to the Board of Selectmen and having it hand delivered to them and sent certified mail to Mark Stinson. As the commissioners are local DEP representatives they have done their due diligence and approved the work (Removal of trees in Scantic River) in June, and what they have done is sufficient to allow the work to proceed. The Board of Selectmen wants to hear from DEP that they are responsible for the cost of the tree removal to prevent damage to the bridge.

Discussion of deed language and stating of homeowner owning land under water or only to high water mark on the bank of the river. Current option is to leave the tree there or have the homeowner order the tree service

Bonnie suggested having Mark Stinson come in to meet with the Board of Selectmen and also discuss the responsibilities of the Conservation Commission in respect to rivers when trees fall into them. She will call Mark and then may set up a special meeting to discuss.

Bonnie made a motion to close the meeting at approximately 8:44pm, Ted seconded, all in favor 4-0