

TOWN OF HAMPDEN MASSACHUSETTS

Town House
625 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036
Phone 413-566-2151 Ext. 110
Fax: 413-566-3513
E-mail: conservation@HampdenMA.Gov
Bonnie Geromini, Conservation Agent



Conservation Commission
Judy McKinley Brewer, Chair
Ted Zebert, Co-Chair
Andrew Netherwood
John Cushman
Thom Page
Greg D'Agostino

Cindi Connors, Assoc. Member

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION Regular Meeting Minutes December 20, 2023 Town House Auditorium and Zoom

Members Present: Judy McKinley Brewer, Ted Zebert, Thomas Page
Guests: See attached list

Judy McKinley Brewer opened the meeting at 6:04

Agenda Items:

- 1 The Eversource gas company recently requested a Certificate of Compliance regarding the Hickory Lane Gas Main Replacement Project DEP # 173-0234. Ted Zebert viewed the site and found the project completed and the area stabilized. Judy made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance. This was 2nd by Thom. All in favor.
2. Scantic Valley Water Project – Tighe and Bond are requesting more borings added to the original Request for Determination. Ted made a motion to approve the addendum including six additional borings. Thom 2nd. All in favor. A letter supporting the additional borings will be sent to Tighe and Bond.
3. Utility pole installation – Fourteen new poles are scheduled to be installed on Allen Street. They will be installed in the road and the road Right-of Way. There will be BVW intrusion between poles 52 and 54. Some wetlands and an area mapped under NHESP are included in the intrusion. Utility work such as this is exempt under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act as well as the Town of Hampden Wetland By-Law and Regulations. The town By- Law does require a 48 hr. notice before work begins. All members voted in favor of installation of the new poles.
4. Mill Pond – The commission received complaints regarding the rear parcel connected to Mill Pond. Cutting of trees and vegetation is taking place on this town owned land. Cutting of vegetation was also happening within the 100 ft buffer of a vernal pool on the property. The commission voted to hire a company to survey and mark the property so that it will be identified as part of the Mill Pond protected area. Signage will be installed once the survey is completed. The vernal pool will be identified by a wetland scientist and will have separate signage for protection. It was also mentioned that the selectmen are looking into hiring a company to dredge Mill Pond to protect the open water. The pond is beginning to revegetate.
5. 530 Glendale Rd. – Initial hearing regarding the NOI submitted for this solar project. Tighe&Bond have been hired as the peer consultants for the commission. Judy reviewed their proposal for peer review services to the audience .Judy made a motion to hire T&B. 2nd by Ted Zebert. All members voted in favor. At this time Judy mentioned she was looking for a company to measure ambient sound generated by the batteries for the solar array.

Rory Walker, began the presentation at 6:34. He once again described the area as 530 Glendale Rd, 52 acres with 21 acres used for the solar arrays. The company is anticipating a 2025 approval for an agri-solar farm. It is proposed to include 11,400 modules with a galvanized steel racking system. It will be a semi- permanent installation with plans for removal in 20 – 40 yrs. Nick Facendola reviewed and discussed the wetland/resource areas. He mentioned that the original driveway will be used as access to minimize resource impacts. He explained the color code of the mapped area, including the present wooded area. A new driveway is proposed to the upland knoll. It is proposed to be a 20 ft.wide gravel driveway. There will be 2,500 sq ft disturbance to the wetland area in building the new driveway. The wetland flows north to south. A replication area will be installed to replicate the area disturbed by the new driveway. Equipment pads will be behind the barn. There is planned a 16 ft access rd in an area within the 25 ft no disturbed zone. (Hampden Ma. Wetland By-Law and Regulations 10.02 1a) “No one shall remove, dredge, build upon or alter land with 25 feet of a resource area except in those cases where the commission determines that a hardship will occur and subject to those conditions imposed by the commission to protect the wetland values of this By-Law” The transformer pad will be installed using directional drilling approximately 10 ft. under the wetland to the equipment pads. There will be approximately a 59 ft buffer to the homes on Ames Rd. A drainage basin is proposed in the wooded area. A stockade fence will be constructed to the north to be used for screening. Plantings will be in front of the fence.

There was a question of chap. 61 vs 61A. Fire Dept. issues were also discussed. Rory Walker stated the company will do whatever the fire department requests.

Comments from the audience:

- Darla – Where is the battery storage? It is near the original barn.
- Debbie – Question on a natural shifting of the wetland line between 2022 and completion in 2025.
- David – How loud are the batteries? Need to have an expert measure the ambient sound to make certain it will not disturb wildlife habitat. The batteries are the size of two long busses.
- Nick – Discussed storm water management. Stated that the amount of water never changes. This statement was challenged.
- Kelsey – What chemicals are in the panels?
- An audience member asked about the amount of heat released by the panels in the summer.

A special permit is needed to install a solar array in a R6 Zone.

Nick Facendola described Detention basins to the audience.

7:50 – Judy made a motion to continue the hearing on Glendale Solar until January 17th 2024. Thom 2nd. All in favor.

Thom made a motion to close the meeting . Ted 2nd. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Geromini

Admin. Assistant

TOWN OF HAMPDEN
Conservation Commission – Meeting Attendance

Date: December 20, 2023

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Address:</u>
<u>Kelsey Flanagan</u>	<u>542 Glendale Rd 01036</u>
<u>Lie + Mike Fedora</u>	<u>240 AMES Rd 01036</u>
<u>TJ Dwyer</u>	<u>487 Glendale Rd 01036</u>
<u>Erica Jansons</u>	<u>487 Glendale 01036</u>
<u>Gina Stabilo</u>	<u>219 Ames 01036</u>
<u>John Stabilo</u>	<u>219 Ames 01036</u>
<u>Stephanie Rougellis</u>	<u>41 Mountain Rd 01036</u>
<u>Celia Rougellis</u>	<u>749 Main St 01036</u>
<u>Daria Iavicoli</u>	<u>564 Glendale 01036</u>
<u>Don Davenport</u>	<u>57 Oak Knoll Dr 01036</u>
<u>Peter Hatch</u>	<u>35 Scamtie Rd</u>
<u>Dick Harris</u>	<u>22 Ames Rd</u>
<u>Linda Morse</u>	<u>41 Potash Hill Ln</u>
<u>Jolene Cusson</u>	<u>500 Glendale Rd 01036</u>

TOWN OF HAMPDEN
Conservation Commission – Meeting Attendance

Date: 12/20/23

Name:

Joshua Cusson

PAUL SNOPEK

JOANNE SNOPEK

SANDRA J HOWELL

Holly C Tuttle

Linda Schlowinski

JASON CATARINO

RORY WALKER

Nick Forandola

Jonathan Grinipero

Glenn Olesuk

Clarin Dubini

Carol Winters

Address:

500 Glendale Rd.

505 GLENDALE

505 GLENDALE

535 Glendale Rd

185 Ames Rd.

173 Ames Rd

91 MILL RD

898 Sport Hill Rd, EASTON, CT 06602

249 South Street Plainville, MA

530 Glendale Rd

79 Martin Farm Rd

11 Meadowsbrook Ln

46 Bayberry Rd.