

DEERFIELD PLANNING BOARD
DEERFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

PRESENT: Board members Peter Schibbelhute, David Doran, Gregory Mitchell, Selectmen's Representative Fred McGarry. Also present Planning Consultant Sylvia von Aulock and secretary Jane Boucher.

7PM Chair Peter Schibbelhute called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST

David Doran moved to approve the manifest in the amount of \$941.98 (SNHPC) and a time sheet for Jane Boucher. Gregory Mitchell seconded. Voted in favor

REQUEST FOR BOND REDUCTION

A request for the bond deduction was received from Jeff Quirk, KNA, for Tukcor Real Estate and Development (Forest Glen) in the amount of \$71,520.24.

Fred McGarry moved to approve the request for a bond reduction. Gregory Mitchell seconded. Voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fred McGarry moved to approve the minutes of September 13, 2017. David Doran seconded.

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 2 Paragraph 1: Correct to read "...provide a bond for..."

Page 2 Paragraph 6: Correct to read "Map 420 Lot 57..."

Chair Schibbelhute called for a vote on the motion. Voted in favor.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

Fred McGarry advised that the Board of Selectmen felt that the money for the CIP should be included in the budget. Mr. McGarry also noted that North Hampton, NH has a CIP Committee consisting of members of various boards in the Town as well as other residents.

Sylvia von Aulock thought that \$5,000.00 would be sufficient .

7:15PM APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING; CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT/PSNH DBA EVERSOURCE/ PROPERTY OFF RESERVATION ROAD
Representatives from Eversource and several Deerfield residents were present.

Chair Schibbelhute read the Notice of Public Hearing by which

Eversource Energy has applied for a CUP for property located off Reservation Road, identified as Tax Map 418 Lot 31 consisting of 33 acres. PSNH(Eversource) is seeking permission to temporarily impact the Wetlands Conservation District by a structure replacement on the 373 345 kV transmission line off of Reservation Road. The proposed work is required to maintain the safety and reliability of the existing transmission system. Impacts to the wetlands are required to gain access to existing structures and replace structures within wetlands.

Planning Consultant Sylvia von Aulock explained that she recently attended a meeting of the Conservation Commission where Eversource was present to discuss this project. She added that when she heard information regarding the project she urged that Eversource be required come to the Planning Board for a CUP because of the scope of the project. Eversource described it as "maintenance" and she said that when she thinks of maintenance, it is something to do with the existing structure. Ms. von Aulock said that it was her understanding that existing structures will remain and structures of different materials will be added. She said that pole lengths range from 45 feet to 135 feet with anywhere from 6 1/2 feet in the ground to 14 1/2 feet in the ground. Ms. von Aulock felt that this would be significant disturbance and she felt that evidence be provided as to how the wetlands would be protected and if this project qualify for a CUP.

Fred McGarry moved to accept the application. Gregory Mitchell seconded. Voted in favor.

Sherri Trefry, Director of Energy and Environmental Services, Kevin McCune, Environmental Supervisor from Eversource addressed the Board. Ms. Trefry said that they are present to apply for relief for the Wetlands Conservation District for maintenance work for structure 194 of the 373 line off the Eversource right of way off of Reservation Road. She said that Eversource goes through and does visual inspections of all of their structures every year as part of their annual program. They identify deficiencies in existing structures. MS. Trefry said they are looking for rotting poles and identify structures on maintenance list. In this case Eversource is looking for replacement of the 194 structure. Ms. Trefry said the intent is to remove the existing structure and replace it in the same location. She said that they have filed a Utility Maintenance Application with the Department of Environmental Services, contacted the National Heritage Bureau to determine if there were any endangered species. She referred to plans showing the access location and work pads location. They propose coming in off of Reservation Road, setting up timber matting to create an access to the wetlands. Drillers will be brought into the matting area and containment will be set up to avoid spillage

of any sort. Ms. Trefry said the the existing wood poles will be replaces with steel poles. This existing structure is 75 feet high and they will be replacing it with an 80 foot structure.

Ms. Trefry said that one equipment is removed and work will only take a few days. An environmental monitor will be on site and review work done with the contractor and make recommendations if any damage to wetlands.

Ms. Trefry said that according to the Zoning Ordinance there are conditions of approval are required for a CUP.

1 Proposed construction is essential to the productive use of land not within the Wetlands Conservation District. This is maintenance work to provide electricity.

2. Design and construction methods will be such as to minimize detrimental impact upon the wetland and will include restoration of the site as nearly as possible to its original grade and condition. Ms. Trefry said she explained this in her earlier statements.

3. No alternative route which does not cross a wetland or has less detrimental impact on the wetland is feasible. There is no alternative route and current access will be utilized.

4. Economic advantage alone is not reason for the proposed construction. The proposed construction is for maintenance to reliability for existing infrastructure and there is no economic advantage.

Gregory Mitchell questioned replacement of materials and height of poles. Ms. Trefry said that Eversource is replacing damaged structures. Mr. McCune said heights are changed because of sagging wires and this is done to meet the code.

Fred McGarry questioned if Eversource hires the contractor and environmental monitor. Ms. Trefry replied that Eversource hires both.

Mr. McGarry referred to the plan and noted that it shows an upland area approaching 194. Ms. Trefry said there is an existing trail.

Peter Schibbelhute said he was familiar with the existing trail and they would do more damage by using upland to get to the pole.

Fred McGarry agreed with Sylvia von Aulock's statement that this is more than "maintenance".

Mr. McCune said that maintenance changes through the years. These lines are live and work is done differently than it was done 20 years ago. He felt that this work is "maintenance".

Fred McGarry asked if the replacement structure will be in the same location as the existing structure.

Mr. McCune basically it will be as close as possible to the existing structure.

Sylvia von Aulock questioned if the old poles will remain. Sherri Trefry replied that the "pole butts" will be dug up by NH Fish and Game and cut up and underground poles left in place.

Erick Berglund questioned the schedule. Ms. Trefry said it is scheduled for the fall.

Mr. Berglund questioned the use of helicopters. Mr. McCune replied that helicopters are not used for this work.

Dennie Greig wanted assurance that Best Management Practices are followed at all time. She said that in the past several contractors doing work for Eversource have created problems. The Town has a list of those and Ms. Trefry said that Best Management Practices will be followed and contractors will not be used that have previously created problems.

Fred McGarry said that perhaps KNA, Town Engineer, do a final inspection.

Sylvia von Aulock questioned if machinery does leak, does temporary matting stop an leakage. Ms. Trefry replied that will be part of the Best Management Practices which will be followed.

Susan Steel suggested that KNA go to the site before work has begun as well as after.

Kathy Shigo that Maine Drill and Blasting did work years ago and it was horrible. They did damage to trees as well as wetlands.

Madeline Fowkes asked if Eversource will pay for KNA's inspection. Fred McGarry replied that the Planning Board will request an escrow account be established with Eversource paying for KNA's work. According to Mr. McGarry the Board will probably require a bond be in place as well as an escrow for KNA. He noted that this is typical of what the Planning Board requires from a developer.

Gregory Mitchell moved that to approve the CUP for Eversource off of Reservation Road with the condition that Eversource post a bond in the amount of \$5,000.00 and \$1,000.00 be submitted to

be placed in an escrow account for payment to KNA for inspections. David Doran seconded. Voted in favor.

8:10PM APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING; CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT CUP; PSNH DBA EVERSOURCE/PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO DEERFIELD SUBSTATION

Representatives from Eversource and several Deerfield residents were present.

Chair Peter Schibbelhute read the Notice of Public Hearing by which PSNH is seeking permission to temporarily impact the Wetlands Conservation District by the replacement of insulators on tow structures on the 307 345 1V transmission line, the replacement of one structure on the C129 115 kV transmission line and the replacement of one structure on the 391 345 kV transmission line around the Deerfield substation. The proposed work is required to maintain the safety and reliability of the existing transmission system. Impacts to the wetlands are required to gain access to existing structures and replace structures within wetlands. This work is proposed for property adjacent to the Deerfield Substation and identified as Tax Map 408 Lot 50, Map 408 Lot 49 and Map 408 Lot 48 consisting of 184 acres.

Sherri Trefry, Director of Energy and Environmental Services and Kevin McCune, Environmental Supervisor addressed the Board.

Fred McGarry moved to accept the application. David Doran seconded. Voted in favor.

Ms. Trefry said that they are representing Eversource and requesting a CUP for relief from Wetlands Conservation District for three separate lines adjacent to the substation for maintenance required. The reason for the maintenance is related to deficiencies in the existing structures. They are proposing two structure replacements. One is for 175 on the 391 line, the next is structure 3 on the 129 line and there are two insulator replacements on structures 187 and 189 on the 307 line. She added that all applications have been filed.

Fred McGarry questioned the heights of the replacement structures. Ms. Trefry replied that structure 3 will be the same with a 60 foot height and structure 175 will be raised 5 feet to 95 feet.

Ms. Trefry said that they plan to come in from Nottingham Road.

Kathy Shigo expressed concern regarding traffic and impact to residents.

Sherri Trefry said that helicopters will not be used and they

will check for Town regulations regarding noise restrictions.

Phil Bilodeau said that one thing not shown on the map , which could impact 175, is the fact that Eversource is before the SEC Committee looking for approval for Northern Pass to enter Deerfield. If approved they will be clearing another 16 acres not shown on the plan. He asked what is the likelihood that 175 will be obliterated in Northern Pass is approved.

Chair Schibbelhute said he understood Mr. Bilodeau's concern but the Board is not looking at that situation right now.

Mr. McCune said that currently Northern Pass is not approved and the pole is deficient and needs to be replaced now.

Kathy Shigo questioned how is the pole damaged. She said that Eversource should wait until a decision is made regarding Northern Pass before replacing poles.

Mr. McCune the pole is rotting and is dangerous.

Joan Bilodeau commented on the fact that unfortunately Jim Page is not present as he has many pictures showing damage due to tree cutting.

Kathy Shigo asked that the Board hold off making a decision on this application.

Dennie Greig requested assurance that Best Management Practices will be followed in this project as well.

Fred McGarry noted that the area involved in this application is considerably larger and the bond required be larger and more inspections by KNA be required. He suggested that three inspections be required and an escrow amount for payment to KNA be \$3,000.00 and bond be set at \$15,000.00. He added that Eversource could submit one bond in the amount of \$20,000 for both projects and a check for \$4,000.00 for KNA inspections.

George Samaris and Marie Latorneau representing Community Outreach indicated that they would be willing to contact residents regarding the proposed work. David Doran suggested that they contact Town Administrator John Harrington to put this information on the Town web-site.

Gregory Mitchell moved to approve a CUP for Eversource for property located adjacent to the Deerfield substation identified as Tax Map 408 Lots 50, 49 and 48 with the following conditions; Bond in place for \$15,000.00 and money to be placed in escrow for payment to KNA for inspections in the amount of \$3,000.00.. David Doran seconded. Voted in favor.

PLANNING BOARD 9/27/17

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Boucher
Pending Approval by the Planning Board