

DEERFIELD PLANNING BOARD
P O BOX 159
DEERFIELD, NH 03037

MAY 11, 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING

PRESENT: Board members Peter Schibbelhute, Board of Selectmen's Representative Fred McGarry, William Perron, Robert Cote, Donald Wyman. Also present Cameron Prolman, SNHPC, and Jane Boucher, secretary.

7PM Chair Peter Schibbelhute called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST

Fred McGarry moved and William Perron seconded to approve the manifest for a time sheet for Jane Boucher (22 1/2 hours). Voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Robert Cote moved and Donald Wyman seconded to approve the minutes of April 27, 2022. Voted in favor with Fred McGarry and William Perron abstaining.

7:15PM APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING; MINOR SUBDIVISION;
RICHARD AND ROBERTA GILBERT; BLAKES HILL ROAD

Roscoe Blaisdell, Roberta Gilbert, Joseph and Tiffany Cartier were present. Also present Erroll Rhodes, Edward Cross, Linda Perry/

Chair Schibbelhute read the Notice of Public Hearing by which Richard and Roberta Gilbert, 17 Blakes Hill Road, Deerfield, NH. (Map 406 Lot 22 consisting of 7.5 acres and owned by the applicants) The intent of the application is to create one new lot consisting of 3.5 acres.

Mr. Blaisdell provided copies of plans which were reviewed by the Board.

Fred McGarry moved to accept the application. William Perron seconded. Voted in favor.

Mr. Blaisdell noted that a variance had been granted by the ZBA in July, 2021. He advised that State Subdivision Approval had been granted. It was noted that the culvert specified in the variance approval would not be necessary.

Fred McGarry moved to Grant Conditional Approval to Richard and Roberta Gilbert for a minor subdivision on Blakes Hill Road with certification of monumentation to be provided. Conditional Approval to lapse in 30 days (June 11, 2022). Donald Wyman

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seconded. Voted in favor

7:25PM APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING; MAJOR SUBDIVISION;
ROSCOE AND KATHLEEN BLAISDELL; 22 SCRIBNER ROAD, RAYMOND, NH.
RESERVATION ROAD
Roscoe Blaisdell was present.

Chair Schibbelhute read the Notice of Public Hearing by which Roscoe and Kathleen Blaisdell are applying for a Public Hearing to consider approval of a Major Subdivision on Reservation Road (identified as Tax Map 418 Lot 25 consisting of 26.5 acres) and owned by the applicants. The intent of the application is to create four new lots consisting of 3 to 10 acres,

Board members reviewed plans. Fred McGarry moved to accept the application. William Perron seconded. Voted in favor.

Roscoe Blaisdell said there was 26.5 acres on Reservation Road and he would like to create a 10 acre lot on the to part and three additional lots. He has not applied for State Subdivision Approval. There will be no further subdivision. Mr. Blaisdell also provided a Site Distance Plan.

Chair Schibbelhute asked if anyone present had any questions.

Ken Cohen, Mountain Road, spoke noting that the Town should scrutinize all Major Subdivisions. He said that Map 418 Lot 25 is in the flood zone and not the best property suited for subdivision. He criticized Mr. Blaisdell as not being considerate to other residents.

Mr. Blaisdell did not comment.

William Perron moved and Fred McGarry seconded to Grant Conditional Approval to Roscoe and Kathleen Blaisdell for a Major Subdivision on Reservation Road with the following conditions:

- . State Subdivision Approval
- . Certificate of Monumentation
- . Easement Deed on Plan

Fred McGarry will check with Town Counsel to determine if separate easement deed is necessary for recording.

Voted in favor to Grant Conditional Approval to Roscoe and Kathleen Blaisdell . Approval to lapse in sixty days. (July 11, 2022).

7:45PM APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING; CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT;
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY DBA EVERSOURCE ENERGY
Connor Madison, GZA Project Manager, and Tracy Tarr were

present.

Chair Schibbelhute read the Notice of Public Hearing by which Eversource Energy is proposing to replace six utility structures along the existing maintained 373 and 391 Transmission Line ROW Corridor. The proposed maintenance work will require temporary impacts to the Wetland Conservation District for access and work pad placement.

Chair Schibbelhute advised that a letter was received from the Deerfield Conservation Commission regarding the application expressing their concerns regarding all phases of the project ; considering the wetlands, vegetation and animals. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Madison addressed the Board . He noted that the project will replace six utility structures. He said that work will be done off of Brown Road, Mountain Road, Nottingham Road and Coffee town Road. NH Fish and Game request that they silt fence for the project. A copy of the complete proposal is attached to these minutes. He advised that they anticipate beginning the project in late July, 2022. Mr. Madison also noted that the Town will receive a copy of State Approval when it is received.

Ms.Tarr also addressed the Board noting that all contractors will be trained on identification of rare, threatened and endangered species.

Connor Madison reviewed the plans provided showing the areas reflecting the locations of the structure replacements . The plans showed the wetland areas impacted .

Ken Cohen, Mountain Road, expressed concern regarding time that work will take. Mr. Madison said that they will provide a phone number for Mr. Cohen to contact contractor for an update, but felt that work would probably take less than one week.

It was noted that a pre-construction conference will need to be held with Keach Nordstrom, who will be doing inspections through the work schedule.

Board members felt a restoration bond be established in the amount of \$19,000.00 and an inspection fee account in the amount of \$5,000 for KNA.

Fred McGarry moved to Grant Conditional Approval to Eversource for a Conditional Use Permit . Conditions listed
 . \$19,000 Restoration Bond in place
 . \$5,000 Account be in place for Inspection Reports from KNA

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. Pre Construction Meeting with KNA
Conditional Approval to lapse in 60 Days. (July 11, 2022)
William Perron seconded. Voted in favor with Donald Wyman
abstaining.

CONTINUATION; MAJOR SUBDIVISION/EDWARD AND SANDRA CROSS
Fred McGarry moved to continue the Public Hearing for a Major
Subdivision for Edward and Sandra Cross on Range Road to May
25, 2022 at 7:15PM. William Perron seconded. Voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

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

Cameron Prolman

From: serita.frey@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 9:24 PM
To: peteschib@gmail.com; Cameron Prolman; mcgarry128@myfairpoint.net; bob.cote@yahoo.com
Cc: Brian Adams; Chloe Gross; Erroll Rhodes; Haley Andreozzi; JoAnne Bradbury; Josh Freed; 'Judy Marshall'; Wes Golomb
Subject: CUP Letter for Planning Board

Dear Planning Board,

Representatives from Eversource and GZA GeoEnvironmental will be attending your meeting tomorrow evening to discuss a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application to conduct structure replacement on the 373, 385, & 391 transmission lines. They met with the Deerfield Conservation Commission on Monday night to discuss the project and asked that we send any comments/concerns to you.

First, we would like to request that Eversource and GZA include more specific information regarding the best management practices related to rare, threatened, and endangered species that will be utilized throughout the work period. Additionally, we would request that there be independent monitors on site regularly to monitor for rare, threatened, and endangered species - specifically turtles and snakes. While this practice has been clearly outlined in previous project proposals, it is not indicated in this current CUP. We appreciate the role you have played in continuing to encourage this important protective measure for Deerfield's wildlife.

In general, the timing of these replacement projects could be altered to further minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitats. This particular project is slated to start in July which is nesting season for turtles and snakes, of which several species found in Deerfield are threatened, endangered, or species of concern (e.g. Blanding's turtles, black racers). Project work that took place in the fall or early winter would seemingly be less disruptive to wildlife and wetland ecosystems.

With this current application, we also want to raise concerns regarding the permanent impact to the upland areas adjacent to wetlands through the deposition of gravel and stone. As you know, Deerfield's Wetland Conservation District Zoning Ordinance (updated March 2020) defines the wetland conservation district as delineated wetlands and upland areas 100 feet beyond the wetland boundary. One of the prohibited uses within this area includes, "Trails, paths, tracks, or other ways, if the traffic caused by these uses compacts and erodes soils." Upland areas adjacent to wetlands play important roles for wildlife, water quality, and flood/storm mitigation; the deposition of stone and gravel threatens those potential functions and values. We would like to request that Eversource do everything possible to minimize impacts to the areas surrounding wetlands, particularly in the area 100 feet beyond the delineated wetland boundary (the distance defined in the Wetland Conservation Overlay District). Where impacts are unavoidable, we would request the avoidance of permanent impacts, if possible, and restoration efforts, where appropriate.

Lastly, the DCC would like to raise concerns about the lack of vernal pools mapped in the project area. Vernal pools serve as critical breeding habitat for several amphibians identified as species of greatest conservation need in New Hampshire (e.g., spotted salamanders, wood frogs). At our meeting, the consultants present were unable to confirm whether vernal pools had been adequately inventoried as part of the wetland mapping conducted by GZA. We would like to request clarity and confirmation that vernal pools were mapped and that there are, in fact, none in the project area. If there are vernal pools present, it would be important to avoid any impact from April through September (per recommendations from NH Fish & Game Department).

I hope you can raise these concerns with the Eversource reps tomorrow evening.



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F: 603.624.9463
www.gza.com



April 21, 2022
File No. 04.0190999.86

Town of Deerfield
Planning Board
Attn: Peter Schibbelhute, Chairman
8 Raymond Road
Deerfield, New Hampshire 03037

Re: Conditional Use Permit Application
Eversource Energy
373, 385, & 391 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project
Deerfield, New Hampshire

Dear Chairman Schibbelhute:

This letter transmits a Conditional Use Permit Application on behalf of Public Service Company of New Hampshire doing business as Eversource Energy (Eversource), for the 373, 385, & 391 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project (see attached **Figure 1 - Locus Plan**). On behalf of Eversource, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (GZA) is requesting consideration of a Conditional Use Permit Application for required impacts within the Town of Deerfield Wetlands Conservation District.

The overall project involves the replacement of select structures (i.e., utility poles) on the 373, 385, & 391 Transmission Lines in the Towns of Derry, Auburn, Chester, Candia, Raymond, Deerfield, Northwood, Strafford, and Rochester, New Hampshire. Replacement of the existing structures is necessary in order to maintain the safety and reliability of the system. The 373, 385, & 391 Transmission Lines are located within an existing approximate 270-foot-wide utility right-of-way (ROW). The 373 and 391 Transmission Lines run parallel to each other starting at Scobie Pond Substation in Derry, New Hampshire and continue for approximately 19 miles to the Deerfield Substation in Deerfield, New Hampshire where the 373 Transmission Line ends and the 385 Transmission Line begins. The 385 and 391 Transmission Lines then run parallel to each other from the Deerfield Substation to the New Hampshire and Maine border in Rochester. In the Town of Deerfield, the proposed work area begins at Brown Road and continues approximately five miles northeasterly to Structure 163 on the 391 Transmission Line.

Wetlands within this ROW corridor were delineated by Normandeau Associates, Inc. in 2018 and reviewed by GZA in April 2022. GZA will be submitting a separate wetlands permit through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for the proposed temporary wetland impacts in Deerfield.

A total of six existing structures are proposed to be replaced, including two structures along the 373 Transmission Line, and four structures along the 391 Transmission Line (see **Figure 2 - Access and Permitting Plans**). The proposed structure replacement



requires approximately 18,916 sq. ft. of temporary wetland impact to predominantly palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands and 57,146 sq. ft. of 100-ft upland buffer impact located within the existing and maintained utility ROW and for construction access. (see **Table 1**). Timber matting will be used within wetlands to minimize and prevent rutting and compaction. Upon completion of work, timber mats will be removed and temporarily disturbed wetlands will be restored by seeding and mulching. Upland access routes and work pads will be improved using gravel and stone as necessary to provide safe access and work areas for structure replacements. Structure locations and construction access were closely reviewed in the field during the design of the project to minimize impacts in the Wetland Conservation District. Wherever possible, access is proposed using existing access routes to limit disturbance to natural wetlands.

Table 1 – Summary of wetlands and associated temporary wetland impacts.

Wetland ID	Classification	Temporary Wetland Impact (SF)	Wetland 100-ft Upland Buffer Impact (SF)
DW-19	PSS1E/PEM1E	1,561	17,992
DW-21	PSS1E/PEM1E	3,995	8,504
DW-22	PSS1E/PEM1E	3,202	5,107
DW-23	PSS1E/PEM1E	2,459	3,354
DW-24	PSS1E/PEM1E	No impact	668
DW-38	PSS1E	No impact	702
DW-47	PSS1E	No impact	758
DW-48	PSS1E	1,719	10,241
DW-69	PSS1E/EM1F	5,896	6,491
DW-71	PEM1	84	3,329
Total		18,916	57,146

(1) Key to classifications:

P = palustrine wetland system
FO = forested
1 = broad-leaved deciduous
SS = scrub-shrub
1 = broad-leaved deciduous
EM = emergent
1 = persistent

R = riverine system
4 = intermittent
SB = streambed

Modifiers:

b = beaver
B = saturated
C = seasonally flooded
E = saturated or seasonally flooded

In accordance with *Article 210.7 of the Deerfield Zoning Ordinance*, a Conditional Use Permit may be issued by the Planning Board for the construction of roads and other access ways for pipelines, power lines and other transmission lines provided that all of the following conditions are found to exist:

- A. ***The proposed construction is essential to the productive use of land not within the Wetlands Conservation District.*** The proposed project includes maintenance along the 373 & 391 Transmission Lines, located within an existing and maintained ROW. The proposed maintenance within the Wetlands Conservation District will increase the stability and reliability of the transmission system by replacing damaged utility structures. The utility structures will be replaced in their current alignment, and there is no expansion of the existing ROW or



installation of new utility lines. As a result, the proposed project is necessary for the productive use of land within the existing and maintained ROW.

Design and construction methods will be such as to minimize detrimental impact upon the wetlands and will include restoration of the site as nearly as possible to its original gradient condition. The access for the project has been sited to avoid areas within wetlands to the greatest extent practicable. Proposed impacts have been avoided in Wetlands DW-20 and DW-38. In addition, the project utilizes existing access routes within the ROW to limit and prevent new disturbance to the greatest extent. Where access routes temporarily cross a wetland, the proposed project has been designed to minimize temporary wetland impacts by using wetland timber matting. Timber matting will be temporarily placed in a narrow section of the wetland where practicable and within existing access routes in order to provide appropriate access and prevent rutting. Prior to work, erosion controls (e.g. straw wattle, silt fence) will be installed to limit and prevent sedimentation in wetlands and will be monitored during construction. Temporary wetland impacts will be restored upon completion of work by seeding with native/naturalized seed mixes and mulching temporarily disturbed areas with weed-free straw. Eversource has retained GZA to complete regular erosion control inspections during construction and provide guidance to the contractor to maintain compliance with local, state, and federal environmental permits. In addition, GZA will coordinate with the contractor to help ensure best management practices (BMPs) are followed in order to protect rare, threatened, and/or endangered species during construction. Coordination with NHB and NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) for the proposed project is ongoing. As typically required by the NHFG, any observed turtles or snakes will be documented and safely relocated off access roads and work pads.

After construction activities are complete, temporary wetland impact areas will be restored using a native seed mix and mulched with straw for stabilization. Erosion controls will be removed when adjacent areas are stabilized.

- B. ***No alternative route, which does not cross a wetland or has less detrimental impact on the wetland is feasible.*** As previously mentioned, impacts were avoided and minimized to the greatest extent practicable by utilizing existing access roads and avoiding unnecessary impacts to wetlands by placing structures outside of wetland boundaries where possible. Timber matting will be used where wetlands must be crossed to limit and prevent rutting and maintain a buffer between tracked vehicles and wetland vegetation. There are no alternative routes that both provide access to structures and minimize impacts to wetlands.
- C. ***Economic advantage alone is not a reason for the proposed construction.*** The proposed project involves replacement of six damaged utility structures on the 373 and 391 Transmission Lines. As a result, the proposed project will ultimately ensure greater stability and reliability of the system.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.



April 21, 2022

04.0190999.86

373, 385 & 391 Transmission Line Structure Replacement

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Very truly yours,

GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Conor Madison'.

Conor Madison, CPESC, CESSWI
Project Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Deborah M. Zarta Gier'.

Deborah M. Zarta Gier, CNRP
Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tracy L. Tarr'.

Tracy L. Tarr, CWS, CWB, CESSWI
Consultant/Reviewer

Attachments: Site Plan Review Application Form
Photo Log
List of Abutters
Figure 1 – Locus Plan
Figure 2 – Access and Permitting Plans
Figure 3 – NRCS Soils Overlay
Figure 4 - Conservation Land Overlay
Application Fee