BLACKSTONE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

OCTOBER 9, 2013

Maggie Plasse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center of the Town Hall.

Present Were:

Maggie Plasse James Pitler

James Plasse Lisa Brita

Absent Was:

Beverly Wilson

William Goulet, 173-175 Mendon Street – Mr. Goulet was present at the hearing. Marc Nyberg was present as Mr. Goulet’s representative. Mr. Goulet has submitted a Notice of Intent for a proposed septic system repair. Mr. Nyberg informed the members that the septic system had not passed Title V. He said that the plan already has Board of Health approval. Mr. Nyberg said that they were able to maintain fifty (50) feet from the wetland.

Mr. Pitler made a motion to close the hearing. Mr. Plasse seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

Mr. Plasse made a motion to approve Mr. Goulet’s project. Mrs. Brita seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

Kevin McCune, NSTAR Electric, 1 NSTAR Way NE250, Westwood, MA – Mr. McCune and Jessica Roberts were present as representatives for NSTAR. They have submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for proposed Transmission Line Maintenance Activities. Ms. Roberts indicated that they would be replacing eleven (11) wooden utility poles in town. She said that wooden swamp mats would be installed by a front loader or excavator. There will be less than one (1) acre of impact. Ms. Roberts indicated that four (4) of the eleven (11) poles are located in the wetland area, and one (1) pole is located in the riverfront area.

Mrs. Brita made a motion to close the hearing. Mr. Plasse seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

Mr. Plasse made a motion to grant NSTAR a negative Determination of Applicability. Mrs. Brita seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

Dan Driscoll, DCR, 251 Causeway St., Suite 900, Boston, MA – Mr. Driscoll was present. Gene Crouch and Trish Donavan of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) were present as representatives for DCR. Scott P. Rabideau was present as the Town’s Consultant.

As soon as Ms. Plasse opened the hearing, Daniel Doyle of the Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club stood up to complain about the abutter notification that they had received. He indicated that the notification did not list the date of the hearing. After a brief discussion, it was pointed out by Mr. Pitler

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that the abutter notification does not need to list the date and time of the hearing. The notification only needs to provide the source from which the abutters can obtain that information.

Mr. Crouch reviewed the plans for the pedestrian and bike pathway over the town bridges with the Commission. He indicated that the project starts at the Millville/Blackstone town line and heads east. Mr. Crouch said that the bridge project was approved about one year ago. He said that the bridge rehabilitation is taking place right now. Mr. Crouch said that the project ends just before St. Paul Street.

Mr. Crouch said that the trail is ten (10) feet wide with two (2) foot offset grass strips on each side. He indicated that there would be fencing along the sides to protect the bikers. Swales would be used for flooding. Mr. Crouch indicated that the first wetland (#15) is at the town line. It was originally a swale which has become a wetland through the years. He said that would be replanted.

Mr. Crouch said that walking east we would see wetlands #12 and #13. The pathway will go by those wetlands but will not touch them. It is in the buffer zone. Erosion controls are shown on the plan.

Mr. Crouch said that wetlands #10 and #8 are along a steep embankment. Wetland #9 is in a deep ravine between two embankments. Wetlands #7 and #6 are in the buffer zone. Wetland #6 is associated with Factory Pond. Wetland #5 is not subject to the Wetlands Protection Act.

Mr. Crouch said that the bikes will go under Church Street creating a mitigation area for wetland #4 and#5 in a large ravine. The parking area will be across the river. He said that they will treat the storm water from the lot. There is a small amount of flow.

Wetland #15 will have mitigation impacts. They will need to replant and extend the swale. Mr. Crouch said that 1,790 square feet is being impacted.

Mr. Rabideau informed the Commission that he had reviewed the plans submitted by DCR. He indicated that they were very complete and thorough. He said that he had walked the site last year. He also said that a portion of the replacement wetlands are in Millville.

Mr. Plasse proposed the following special condition be listed on the Order of Conditions. That Blackstone approves the project subject to the Town of Millville’s approval. Mr. Crouch said that they were meeting with Millville next week.

Mr. Doyle said that wetlands #4 and #5 are on Middle Street and borders twenty-six (26) acres on Factory Pond. He said that DCR owns the right-of-way. Ms. Donavan said that DCR will not be crossing and Boys and Girls Club property. They are waiting for an easement from the Club. Mr. Doyle said that Dan Keyes, the Town Administrator, told him that the Club would need to obtain an environmental study and MEPA review. Mr. Crouch said that must be a misunderstanding, because they do not need to have those things done.

Robert Perreault of 338 Main Street said that he is concerned about the railroad tracks and the elevation. Mr. Crouch said that they are well above stream level. Mr. Perreault does not want water

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dumping onto his property, but he is not opposed to the trail. Mr. Crouch said that they are not altering the drainage and the flow will not be changed.

Mr. Crouch said that the DCR will maintain the swales, but they would like some assistance from the towns along the pathway.

Mr. Plasse made a motion to close the hearing. Mrs. Brita seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

Mr. Plasse made a motion to approve the project for the DCR with the special condition that Millville must also grant their approval.

Mrs. Brita seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

Mr. Plasse made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 29th meeting. Mrs. Brita seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

All the members present signed the secretary’s payroll sheet.

Mrs. Brita made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Plasse seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Unanimous Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Larue