

Meeting Minutes

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

08/01/13

August 1, 2013

Present: Alan Strickland, Chair, Jeanine King, Phil King, Dwight Marchetti, Gary Gaudette, Steve Schneider

Excused: Shirley Green, Sue Hagerman

Guest Speakers: Dana Arey of Pathway Consulting; Peter Walker from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., accompanied by Liberty Utilities employees Mary Casey and Carmine Luongo

Other guests: Henry Cross, Ed Rippe

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

June Minutes:

Motion made by Alan to accept June 2013 minutes as amended. Seconded. Passed.

Correspondence:

Dana Arey from Pathway Consulting has a Permit by Notification application that the Commission will need to review. The project includes maintenance dredging, grading, and reconstruction of existing drainage ditches at Daniels Mobile Home Park.

Guest: Dana Arey from Pathway's Consulting: re drainage ditches/storm water management at Daniels Mobile Home Park; filed routine roadway and railway maintenance notification. Water and sewer improvements are being done. Questions from Alan: when was last time ditch was cleaned out? Answer: 20+ years. We weren't involved when Donny owned it. Ditches are grown in and filled in with sediment. Significant issues with roadway. There is a hazard at intersection of Route 4 at easterly section involving erosion. The roadway is washing out down to Route 4. We will be replacing culverts of the same size, to the extent we can tell what size the old ones were. Dwight asked about the volume of the water flow. Answer is that the volume will be the same.

Motion made by Dwight to sign off on application. Seconded. Passed.

Peter Walker from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., has a standard Dredge and Fill Application that the Commission will review. Liberty Utilities, the applicant, is proposing construction of a new electrical distribution supply line extending for approximately 7.3 miles between the Lebanon #1 Substation to the Enfield #7 Substation located on Maple Street. Construction of the new 1L4 line in Enfield will involve installation of new single wood poles, impacting 4 permanent square feet of wetlands. 7,088 square feet will be temporary impacted.

Presentation re Power Line coming in from Lebanon by Liberty Utilities, given by: Peter Walker, environmental scientist; Mary Casey, environmental program manager for Liberty Utilities; Carmine Luongo, Service/Energy Efficiency Contractor with Liberty Utilities.

PowerPoint presentation.

- Who they are – local distribution of electricity. Purchased assets of Granite State Electric. Same infrastructure and mostly same people.
- This project – is about improving system reliability. Only one feed in from Enfield substation. When power goes down, everyone loses power. 7.3 miles long, starting at a substation in Lebanon. No expansion of right of way. It uses existing one. Additional equipment within existing substation. Some outside of same. Waiting for approvals. Would start construction in October of this year and go into 2014.
- Visuals of supply lines, and description of new poles that would be put in (8 feet below surface) and their configuration and spacing (20 feet from existing poles). Right of way is about 20 feet wide. Some clearing on north side of right of way. Vegetation management/clearing. Forester involved. That will start soon. No large cutting in wetlands until they get approval. Environmental controls used in wetlands to protect as much as possible. Standard hay bale and silt fence will be placed wherever there is risk of erosion of wetlands. The last step is restoring the right of way. Impaction minimized and sea bed preserved, as well as pre-existing plants. Within one year, perhaps two, you will not see any difference between pre and post work wetland.
- Map showing boundaries and location of substation
- Map showing wetlands, and line showing where contractor would be accessing right of way; existing and new pole locations marked; will move from west to east with plans; one area where they have asked for permission for temporary wetland impact. Access will be through a combination of public and private routes (with permission).

- What they are asking for, based on permit application, is permission for a special exception:
 1. Comments or concerns on wetlands development application for special exception.

Questions:

1. Steve commented that this has gone before the Selectboard already, without much questioning. Impacts will be minimal and there will be positive benefits to Enfield.
2. Question re tree clearing; answer: done on annual basis.

Carmine Luongo: explanation of new lines. New lines, spacer cables, are meant to have the trees bounce off them. Alan pointed out UNH literature about power lines in shrub lands; positive thing. Alan asked what they want the commission to do for them: Dana explained that the application is under review at DES. If the ECC supports the project, can we write a letter to DES saying that we have seen the presentation and support the project, with the same letter going to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Clock is ticking, so this needs to be done soon.

Motion made by Dwight to draft a letter in support of project to both DES and ZBA. Seconded. Passed.

Crystal Lake siltation from Boys Camp Road: Report on meeting with DPW Jim Taylor, Alan Strickland, and phone conversation with landowner Michel Drape, to reduce storm water runoff into Crystal Lake.

Guests: Henry Cross, Ed Rippe

Alan discussed his conversation with Jim Taylor, and Michael Drape. They agree that something needs to be done, but are not sure what. Ed first complained about this in 2008. He showed pictures of the silt problem, and the stream bisecting his property. Henry Cross said he came because he thought this issue was a drainage issue for the lakes. Alan thinks this is something the commission can and should pursue. Henry distributed a letter explaining how this problem goes back to 2011, and it is damaging to both Crystal Lake and Mascoma Lake. He said it is a shame to see such a beautiful lake (Crystal Lake) being destroyed, and feels that going to DES is a losing battle. Support is needed from the town to fight them. The town should take some responsibility to fight this issue. He wants to see some action on the part of the town to protect both lakes. He has pictures showing the ground water totally brown in the channel going down to the lake (Crystal). The growth of the weeds is getting awful in the lake. Henry checks for milfoil frequently. A new growth of algae has been seen.

Dwight pointed out that he went out personally to Ed's property, after the commission went out, and made some suggestions to put a retention pond on his land; that won't help Henry's problem. Also suggested putting logs or rocks or bales of hay to catch the sediment so it wouldn't go down to fast. Have any of these ideas been put into place? Ed said he doesn't have the equipment.

Dwight suggests going to group of people who own the properties to coordinate some of this effort. Henry agrees that the landowners have the ability and potential to slow things down, but feels that the town has the responsibility to put in culverts or some sort of dam to prevent the silt and water from going down. Ed said they can do things on the 200 feet they own, but more can be done beyond that.

Steve said it has to be caught up on Boy's Camp Road, or above. Past attempts to do this on private property haven't worked out well.

Dwight suggested the town talk to property owners first to explain work to be done.

Alan pointed out that the commission is ready to reduce the siltation on Boy's Camp Road. They have permission to channel it onto private property, and said the only thing he can do is to contact the property owners. Henry asked is permission is needed from DES. According to Dwight, the answer is "no" if there isn't any wetlands involvement. The suggestion to Ed is to get a group of people together to build a pond to slow down the silt flow.

Alan pointed out that the commission is working on resolving the problem.

Dwight: another thing that can be done is to take the ditch on Lockehaven Road on the left side, and channel it down the right hand side instead. Steve pointed out that the water crosses at Ibey road, not at boy's Camp. There are two ditches coming from Lockehaven.

Alan: we need to move on with the agenda, but we are committed to resolving this issue.

Old Business: Discussion of a management Plan for Bicknell Forest, and the hiring of forester Erhard Frost. Mr. Frost will not be at the meeting. Please call him at 802-785-4749 for any questions.

Bicknell Brook management plan and wildlife habitat:

Dwight contacted Emma Cargenio at UHN, who referred him to someone very knowledgeable about wildlife habitat (Emma). He discussed the forestry plan, without mentioning wildlife habitat. She would like to come up to look at the issue of wildlife habitat. He did research online, and found grants that are available for conservation. He feels that we want to get the selectmen involved if there is any cutting to do. Steve indicated they are already involved. He said it would be a good idea to have the UNH specialist come up to walk the land. A discussion ensued about spending money

from the Conservation Fund versus going for grant funds, or adding the figure of \$5,500 to next year's budget to do the study. Steve pointed out that the Bicknell Forest is conserved land, and that nothing can be done without a Management Plan. He said that a fund can be set up for proceeds from any logging, that be designated for conservation efforts on that property; an Expendable Trust Fund. As far as asking for the \$5,500 in the next budget, Steve said the Budget Committee would need a good reason why they are asking for funds when there is money in the account. They want any expenditures to be offset with revenues (such as fees). Dwight clarified that he feels the Management Plan is a good thing, but thinks there are other funds out there to go after for this purpose. Jeanine feels the Management Plan is a good use of the funds, and she personally doesn't have time to work on a grant.

Motion made by Jeanine that we take the money out of the Conservation Commission fund to pay for the Management Plan up to \$5,500. Motion seconded. Alan said that Sue Hagerman submitted an absentee vote in favor, to which Dwight informed the Commission that voting by proxy is illegal. All present in favor, with one opposed. Motion passed.

Steve: re disbursement of CC funds: need to have a public hearing. Open the meeting and talk about the disbursement of the cc funds. Close the hearing, and then formally vote on disbursement of the funds. Need a majority of the commission. Four presently out of seven. Let Alisa know to schedule a public hearing. She will put it in the paper. It can't just be advertised in website.

New Business: Ben Kilham talk

Dwight: we have approved \$250 for Ben Kilham's appearance in October. He would like to get in touch with him to present an invoice for the fee plus mileage.

Budget Notes:

Note re submission of invoice for minute-taking: should be submitted within current month for work done. Steve said to submit invoice to Wendy.

Re a question about the yearly budget for the ECC, Steve pointed out that many committees do not present their budget to the budget committee due to the small size of the budget.

Boat Launch response: Steve: mostly administrative. We are still moving forward with improving the boat launch into the lake. He showed the wetlands permit. There is a continuing conflict between the users of the lake and the beach-goers. The town has tried to remedy the situation with signage and ticketing. Not successful keeping the two groups separate. He has asked for a budget to enforce the parking regulation. Would need to pave and mark parking spaces at the boat launch parking lot. He has been told the permitting wouldn't be too tough as the paving would be a non-porous material. The cost would be between \$60,000 - \$70,000. There would be 3 feet of sub-base to allow the water to filter through. You don't want the run off going into the lake. Some of the sediment can be caught in another portion of the lot. He will discuss this at the next Selectboard meeting. This would be a permanent solution to addressing this conflict. In another five years, when the rail trail is complete, we might relocate the beach over to the other side, but that could be another ten years.

Steve: The other town project that is along Mascoma Lake is a sagging sewer line. A permit application has been submitted to the state, but they are resisting. Basically, the line would have to fail in order to get approval faster. This wouldn't be a good scenario.

Next meeting will be on September 5th.

Motion made by Alan to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Submitted by:

Shelley Geoghegan