

Essex Conservation Commission

February 1, 2000

Present: Edwin Perkins, Chairman, Robert Brophy, Wallace Bruce, Stephen Gersh, Peter Perrigo.

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Donald Cashman met with the Board for an informal discussion on an addition with deck to the existing dwelling of Christopher Weld, 7 John Wise Lane. The total area of the addition is 850 square feet. The Board felt a Request for a Determination of Applicability would be sufficient.

A Request made by Rolf Roller for the Commission to Determine the Applicability of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, for the installation of a tight tank at 31 Grove Street was heard at 7:40 p.m.

Roller told the Board they have an existing system, consisting of two tanks, which is failing. They would like to place a tight tank in between. They were going to place it where there were trees, but it was not feasible, so they are going where the existing tanks are. The work is approximately 90 feet from wetlands on one side, and 85 feet at another point. The Board reviewed the plan and Request.

Perrigo moved to issue a negative Determination to Rolf Roller for the installation of a tight tank at Grove Street, seconded by Bruce, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. The Board wanted a silt fence placed on the east side of the construction.

A public hearing was held at 7:50 p.m. under the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, on a Notice of Intent filed by Massachusetts Electric Company covering the installation of a 3,500 linear feet of underground electric distribution line on Eastern Avenue, Grove Street and Lufkin Street.

Representing Massachusetts Electric Company were Michael Selvitella and Elizabeth Green from Mass. Electric, and William Lattrell of Valley Environmental Services. The Board was told that the proposed work involves the installation of a six conduit duct system beneath the roadway. In addition, it is proposed to install two-way and three-way manholes in order to access the utility line. The installation of the duct requires digging a trench approximately six feet deep and five feet wide. All work

Page Two

February 1, 2000 - Minutes

will occur eight feet into the roadway, but they will have to cross Eben Creek. The majority of the wetlands are associated with Eben Creek, which also has a 200 foot Riverfront Area on either side. There is also an area of about 400 linear feet of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, where Eben Creek crosses under Eastern Avenue. Bruce asked Selvitella why Mass. Electric was doing this work in this area. Selvitella told him that it was not a replacement system, but a backup system. Essex has two circuits, one coming down Southern Avenue, and the other down Route 22. Because of the growth, they want to have a backup system. It is going underground because of safety. Perkins asked if there was a chance of the existing wires going underground. Selvitella said that all the abutters would have to have their service underground, so there would be a cost involved to do that. Selvitella indicated that a couple of poles near Grove and Water Streets would be moved. William Lattrell indicated that with regard to the environmental controls, a six-inch curb between the area of the proposed work and the wetland would prevent sediment from impacting nearby resource areas. On the extreme eastern end of the project along Lufkin Street where no curb is found, a double siltation barrier comprised of one layer of filter fabric and one layer of double-staked haybales will be placed along the northern edge of the road. Lattrell also stated that they will be doing test digs for the line, prior to the line going in. It means going to each manhole and testing, so they would like to add that to the Notice of Intent. Perkins asked if anyone has ever done any kind of survey with regard to cleaning up the environment by removing the poles. He felt Mass. Electric should remove some of the hazards by putting the existing lines underground in the area of Grove and Water Street, and to also remove the 35,000 volt lines from out of the air. Perkins added that he felt Mass. Electric was doing the Town of Essex an injustice. Selvitella said there was a lot of expense in putting the lines underground. A discussion followed regarding this issue.

Gersh then moved to close the public hearing for Massachusetts Electric, seconded by Perrigo, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

The Order of Conditions was written for Massachusetts Electric.

Bruce moved to approve the project for Massachusetts Electric for the installation of approximately 3,500 linear feet of underground electric distribution line along Lufkin Street,

Page Three
February 1, 2000 - Minutes

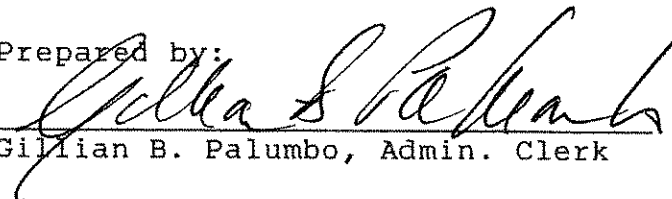
Eastern Avenue, and Grove Street, seconded by Perrigo, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Stephen Gersh and Edwin Perkins will be the Commission's representatives for the project. Special conditions for the project, in addition to the boilerplate, are as follows: 1) A commission representative will visit the site once a week and meet with the project engineer to review and sign off on the project status to date. 2) Prior to any earth moving activity, a Howland Biofence must be in place the entire length of the project which falls within 100 feet of the resource area and buffer zone. While the Commission recognizes that street curbing is a barrier, we are requiring a bio fence for the above-mentioned area in order to prevent any stockpiled material from silting into the rivers, streams, and marshes. The siltation barrier shall also act as a limit of disturbance, and no alteration shall take place beyond it. The siltation barrier will be inspected during work and if signs of deterioration are showing, it shall be replaced immediately. Once the area is stabilized, the siltation barrier shall be removed. 3) Any stockpiled material remaining at the end of each work day must be covered with plastic or removed from the site. 4) Silt and debris must be prevented from entering the storm drains. While work is in progress, storm drains which are in the immediate work area must be covered to prevent any infiltration of silt and debris. The storm drain covers must be removed at the conclusion of each work day, and should work proceed during a rain storm, said storm drains shall be uncovered to allow the flow of water to enter the drain. 5) Before a Certificate of Compliance is issued, representatives from the Commission and the Essex Department of Public Works shall inspect each storm drain to ensure there is no accumulation of silt and debris. If silt and debris is discovered, then the applicant will be required to open and clean said storm drains.

Perrigo moved to approve the Minutes of January 4, 2000, as read, seconded by Brophy, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Brophy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Perrigo, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Prepared by:



Gillian B. Palumbo, Admin. Clerk

Attest: