

MINUTES

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TOWN CLERK

Millbury Conservation Commission

Date: September 19, 2012

12 OCT 18 AM 10: 27

Time: 7:00 PM

Present: Ron Stead, Mathew Ashmankas, Anthony Cameron
Absent: Donald Flynn, Paul DiCicco

MILLBURY, MASS.

7:15 P.M. Daniel McIntyre / New England Power Company
NEPCO Notice of Intent
PUBLIC HEARING Existing right-of-way
Vice-Chairman Ron Stead read legal ad.

Document used:

- Notice of Intent Interstate Reliability Plans – (IRP) – MA in Millbury, MA
- Revised page 3 of 8 of Notice of Intent

Present were, Dan McIntyre and Erin Whoriskey of National Grid and Lee Curtis and Dominic Rinaldi of BSC Group to propose New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid's Interstate Reliability Project – 366 line. Dan McIntyre gave an overview of the project - a new 15.4 mile 345KV overhead transmission line which starts in Millbury and goes to Rhode Island – for the purpose of improving the overall reliability of the electrical transmission system. He explained there will be no permanent fill of wetlands in Millbury however propose to clear easement to its full width to allow for five miles of transmission line including 8 new structures. Portion of one structure proposed in Flood Plain; will be compensated for. Proposing habitat conversion by wetland cutting, but no loss of wetland. Dom Rinaldi spoke about stormwater improvements proposed outside transmission line area at station off Cross St. Proposing small increase in impervious surface (paved area); new catch basins proposed; will improve existing swale. Mr. Rinaldi explained work meets Stormwater Management Standards. Existing building will remain and new one-story metal building (45'x90') proposed. Roof runoff to gutters; straw wattles proposed for mitigation. Lee Curtis explained construction sequence and schedule – tree removal; placements of mats; installation of structures; re-wiring of transmission lines. Proposed start date is planned for early 2014, thus proponent is seeking a 5 year Order of Conditions instead of 3 year Order.

Board reviewed proposal. Discussion ensued. Mat Ashmankas asked about vernal pools and was told there are no (NHESP) certified vernal pools within project area. No work is proposed in areas of potential vernal pools; however canopy will be altered and propose compensation for canopy alteration. Ms. Curtis explained, consideration has been given while working near potential vernal pools and are conscious of pool life breeding season. Regarding newly proposed building, Mat Ashmankas recommended that proponent check with the Planning Department in the event they need anything from the Planning Board. Regarding transmission line, Tony Cameron asked and was told existing line will remain. Audience member, Jack Chiras of 34 Providence St., inquired about location of transmission line relative to his property and discussed his concerns regarding high voltage transmission lines and dangers of Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF). He asked if the Town took a Gauss reading and said he thinks the Town should know what the reading is before project starts, citing a past situation whereas a line was constructed in Millbury and a house on Grafton St. had to be demolished soon afterwards. Dan McIntyre responded, stating that based on findings, the EMF is safe.

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Mathew Ashmankas motioned to close the hearing; seconded by Tony Cameron; voted unanimously to close. Board voted unanimously to approve proposal. An Order of Conditions will be issued and conditioned accordingly to expire in five years.

FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP GRANT

The clerk notified the board that the Conservation Commission is in receipt of two checks from Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program regarding Brierly Pond Conservation Area [\$1,390.00 Reimbursement to consulting forester, Joseph Lee and \$500.00 Outreach Plan Reimbursement] and is awaiting account numbers to be assigned by the Finance Director in order to deposit funds accordingly. The board voiced their gratitude to Town Planner Laurie Connors for all her hard work.

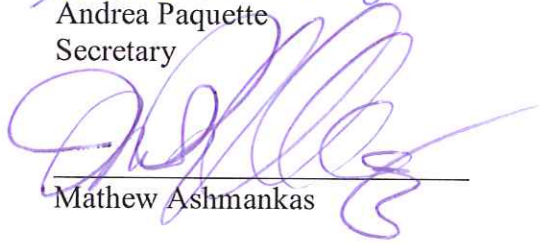
WOODLAND ST.

The board discussed the matter at 16 Woodland St. with respects to remarks recently received from Rob McNeil following his site visit there. Regarding the Enforcement Order previously sent to Thomas & Noreen Mancuso, the board determined that they would send the Mancusos a letter only requiring them to stabilize the area at this time, pending the planned 2013 repair of the easement by the DPW Dept.

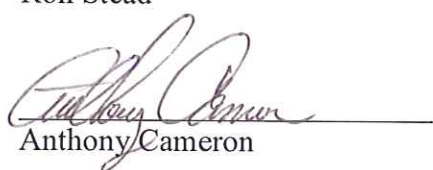
Mathew Ashmankas motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.; seconded by Tony Cameron; voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea V. Paquette
Andrea Paquette
Secretary


Mathew Ashmankas


Ron Stead


Anthony Cameron