

**MILLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Room 104, Veterans Memorial Building, 900 Main St., Millis, MA
August 10, 2015**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:32 p.m. by Dr. James Lederer, Chair.

The following members were present:

Dr. James Lederer, Chair
Anne Rich, Vice Chair
Ed Chisholm, Christine Gavin, Tim Chorey

Members Absent: Cara Krinsky, Daniel Lee

Others present: Peter Harkey, 256 Orchard St
Rich Kleiman, 487 Adams St., Milton, MA
Colleen DeBenedetto, Clean Energy Collective, Worcester, MA
Dan Feeney, Beals & Thomas, Inc., Southboro, MA
Dan Merrikin, Merrikin Engineering, 730 Main St., Ste. 2C
Marta J. Nover, Nover-Armstrong, 124 Main St., Carver
John Alger, 20 Timberline Rd.
Ron Wong, 3 Greenwood Dr.

**OFF MAIN ST./CEDAR ST. (MAP 32 PARCEL 002)
COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT
PETER HARKEY
INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

Mr. Harkey described the property, where a lacrosse facility had previously been approved. That project never went forward, he said. He stated that the property is 28.5 acres and he would propose a solar array on approximately 6.1 acres of the parcel. The site is currently undeveloped, wooded land which contains wetlands, he said. This would be a “community solar project.”

Mr. Feeney presented a “Solar Array Exhibit” plan. He said that clearing within the 50-foot buffer zone would be proposed to accommodate solar arrays. There would be some clearing of trees and very little grading, Mr. Feeney stated. Wetland scientists from Beals & Thomas surveyed and delineated the area six weeks ago. The access road to the inverter pad would be at the edge of the 100-foot buffer zone. The preliminary design also proposed “pollarding” – cutting of trees to approximately 8’ height – for exposure. A fencing line is shown on the plan and some clearing within the 50-foot setback may be required. Mr. Feeney said they would be “looking for flexibility with the regulations.” Mr. Kleiman stated that raised fences could be used to accommodate wildlife. Once constructed, he said, there is very little maintenance or human activity. He stated the application would “need a little relief from the Conservation Commission.”

Mr. Chorey stated he would like to see the habitat function values before the project. Mr. Chisholm requested existing and proposed topography be shown on the plans. The Commission was in agreement that a Notice of Intent would be required for a formal review and public hearing.

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**3 GREENWOOD DRIVE
JOHN ALGER/RON WONG
INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

The Commission met with Mr. Alger, who was representing the homeowner, Mr. Wong. They reviewed the plan for the proposed addition to the single family home. The Commission does require the filing of a Request for Determination of Applicability for the proposed project.

**HICKORY HILLS SUBDIVISION
SEDIMENTATION ISSUES
UPDATE/DISCUSSION**

Mr. Merrikin, representing the applicant, updated the Commission on the status of the sedimentation issues. Mr. Merrikin stated that the Stormwater Basin has been constructed. The site is dry right now, he said, and the developer is starting on some home construction. He said that they are looking to target scraping up the sediment in the next week to week and a half. According to Mr. Merrikin, they will “get out with buckets and shovels and scrape it off.”

Ms. Nover stated that she recently visited the site and walked the wetlands. She provided photographs of areas that are easily accessible which need to be cleaned with flat shovels. She recommended that the clean-up be done right away. The wetland is healthy except for the few areas mentioned, she said.

Mr. Merrikin will coordinate the cleanup with Ms. Nover so she can observe. (Note: Ms. Nover emailed the Commission on August 27, 2015, stating that the wetland alteration mitigation was satisfactorily completed on August 20, 2015).

NEW BUSINESS:

PROPERTY REVIEW

The Commission had been asked to review the Santos property behind the post office. Some Commission members drove by and it was determined that there appeared to be no wetland issues; no impact to the wetlands.

**EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION FORM RATIFICATION
72 PLEASANT ST.
VERDERBER PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL**

The Commission was made aware by the police department and DPW of leaning/fallen trees and brush hindering emergency access to the property. Mr. Dave Dodsworth of Treework.pro offered his services to remove the trees/brush. The work was done on August 8, 2015. Dr. Lederer stated that Mr. Dodsworth did a wonderful job and the Commission thanks him for his services.

On a motion made by Mr. Chorey, seconded by Ms. Rich, it was voted unanimously to ratify the Emergency Certification Form for tree work at 72 Pleasant St.

