

**MILLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Room 104, Veterans Memorial Building, 900 Main St., Millis, MA
September 14, 2015**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 p.m. by Dr. James Lederer, Chair.

The following members were present:

Dr. James Lederer, Chair
Ed Chisholm, Christine Gavin, Cara Krinsky, Daniel Lee, Tim Chorey

Members Absent: Anne Rich

Others present: Robert Vey, 211 Pleasant St., BIG Excavation
Jeff Compton, 211 Pleasant St.
Colleen DeBenedetto, CEC, 146 W. Boylston St., Worcester
Doug Carlton, CEC
Dan Feeney, Beals & Thomas, 144 Turnpike Rd., Southborough
Peter Harkey, 256 Orchard St.
Katy Golden, 363 Exchange St.
Paul & Sherrice Golden, 363 Exchange St.

**211 PLEASANT ST.
SEPTIC REPAIR
INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

Ms. Thissell of the Board of Health notified the Commission (via email dated 9/3/2015) that she was reviewing a proposed septic repair at 211 Pleasant Street. The design engineer had expressed concern regarding wetlands in the vicinity of the property. Mr. Vey of BIG excavation, stated that the septic replacement is necessary to sell the property. The Commission reviewed the maps of the septic repair location and determined that there were no wetland issues and they may proceed with the proposed septic repair work.

**DEP FILE #CE225-0390, NOTICE OF INTENT, PUBLIC HEARING, OFF MAIN ST.,
SOLAR ARRAY**

The public hearing was opened at 7:32 p.m. with notice being read by Dr. Lederer, Chair.

Mr. Feeney of Beals & Thomas presented the application and plans. He stated that the application is being filed on behalf of the applicant, Clean Energy Collaborative. The filing is for proposed work within the Resource Areas of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, Land under Water Bodies and Waterways, Riverfront Area, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and the Buffer Zone of BVW. The proposed development includes the installation of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic solar array and related appurtenances, including a security fence and gravel access road off Main Street. Mr. Feeney discussed the existing conditions of the site stating that the site is currently undeveloped, wooded land which contains wetlands. He said that five acres would be solar arrays and another acre outside would be for stormwater basins and the access road. Mr. Feeney stated that a significant portion of work associated with the solar array installation will take place outside of the jurisdictional buffer zones and resource areas. Work proposed within the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, Inland

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Bank, and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding includes clearing of vegetation, installation of solar array panels, installation of the security fence, construction of a gravel access road, pollarding, and impact mitigation where two stormwater basins are proposed. Additionally, he said, pollarding (of 6-8' tree height) is anticipated to take place within a portion of the BW and BLSF in order to avoid shading impacts to the proposed array. Mr. Feeney stated that the wetlands were delineated during June and July 2015 by Russell Waldron of Applied Ecological Sciences. Mr. Feeney stated that a wildlife study will be done by Goddard Consulting.

There was discussion regarding the plans. Mr. Lee suggested mitigating by moving some of the solar panels outside of the buffer zone. Mr. Feeney stated that the panels are placed where they are due to "shading issues." Mr. Lee said that requesting a waiver is meant for instances of hardship; where this is not the case with this application. In his opinion, he would rather some of the panels be moved, Mr. Lee stated. Mr. Chisholm asked if the Federal communication line along the railroad bed was still active. Mr. Harkey did not know the answer to this question. Mr. Chisholm stated that he wants the applicant to "find where it is" before any work begins. He also requested that the applicant be certain no sewer lines run down Cedar Street. Mr. Chisholm stated that construction information is missing from the plans. He wanted "a few cross sections" shown. The cross sections should include "Existing Conditions," "Final Conditions," and arrays shown to scale, he said. Mr. Chisholm also requested that sheet C3.1 be revised to make the "General Notes" section site specific. The Commission wants construction sequencing and erosion controls proposed shown; also the number of swales proposed. They also want more details on the proposed pollarding – what type of trees, etc. Mr. Chisholm stated that he recommends NOT starting construction/bull-doing in the Spring; "it will be a quagmire out there," he said.

Mr. Chorey expressed objections to the on-site Intermittent Stream labelling when GIS mapping classifies it as Perennial. Mr. Feeney will review this further. Mr. Chorey wants to know how the surfaces will be stabilized to bind the soil.

Stormwater Management was discussed. Mr. Feeney stated that a wildflower seed mix would be used and mowed once a year "to slow any runoff down." They are not proposing to change the natural flow patterns. Mr. Feeney stated that they would add soils to the drainage area plans. Dr. Lederer referenced the email from DEP regarding the file number assignment. DEP had noted that Stormwater Management information for post-development hydrology for the project needed to be provided. Mr. Feeney stated that he spoke to DEP and there was a clerical error where their copy of the Notice of Intent was missing that information. He said that he had since emailed the information to DEP for review.

Dr. Lederer stated that the Commission, at the applicant's expense, would like to have the application and plans reviewed by their peer consultant at Nover-Armstrong Associates, Inc. The applicant was amenable to the request. Due to the various revisions to the plan and supplemental information to be provided, the Commission will continue the public hearing.

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On a motion made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Gavin, it was voted unanimously at 8:23 p.m. to continue the public hearing to Monday, October 19, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

**72 PLEASANT STREET
GIRL SCOUT PROJECT COMPLETION – GOLD AWARD**

Girl Scout Katy Golden presented her storyboard for her completed project to clean up the Pleasant Street property and construction of a fire pit and area for camping. She also provided a written document with photographs (“sustainability booklet”) and information for patrons visiting the property. Ms. Golden stated that there is still an existing sign on-site stating, “No Camping – No Fires.” Dr. Lederer stated that as long as a fire permit is issued from the Fire Department and the Police Department is informed, camping and campfires in the fire pit are allowed.

The Commission thanked Ms. Golden for doing such a wonderful job with her project.

**3 IRON WOOD LANE
PROPOSED SEPTIC REPLACEMENT**

Ms. Thissell of the Board of Health emailed the Commission regarding a proposed septic replacement. The Commission reviewed the information and there appeared to be no wetland issues with the project.

OTHER BUSINESS:

**DEP File #CE225-0383
41 AUBURN ROAD
STEPHEN MCCLARY**

Mr. McClary was scheduled for an informal discussion to discuss the changes made from the original approved plan for the Order of Conditions. He emailed the Commission Secretary requesting that the discussion be continued as he was unable to attend the meeting. This item will be scheduled on the October 19, 2015 agenda.

**ALGONQUIN GAS
ACCESS NE PROJECT
SURVEY AUTHORIZATION
(PARCEL ID 42-059)**

The Commission was in receipt of a letter from Algonquin Gas, dated July 8, 2015. They requested the Commission’s authorization to allow field survey work for their proposed Access Northeast Project.

