

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN
MASSACHUSETTS**

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Kelly McCormick, Clerk



Conservation Commission
Bonnie Geromini
Judy McKinley Brewer
Philip Grant
Ted Zebert
Andrew Netherwood
Tim Hanley
Branden Garvey

HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 21, 2018

Attendance: Chairman, Bonnie Geromini and Conservation Board Members Judy McKinley Brewer, Phil Grant, Ted Zebert, Andrew Netherwood and Tim Hanley were in attendance.

Not in Attendance: Conservation Board Member Branden Garvey was not in attendance.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Minutes from the January 17, 2018 were reviewed. Bonnie made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ted seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Miscellaneous: Andrew mentioned the possibility of the Commission purchasing a new digital camera this year for site visits. The Commission discussed how they had one in the past and would keep photos on file to look back on when needed. Bonnie also mentioned that she would like to start using forms when going to site visits.

The Board also discussed providing applicants with a top sheet when issuing an Order of Conditions that states the date that the Orders expire. Phil mentioned that the Orders are good for 3 years from the date of issuance and it is up to the applicant to track the date they are no longer valid. Phil also mentioned that the Orders of Condition must be recorded prior to any work being started.

Old Business:

William & Linda Bond (Lots 40 & 40A Highland Circle) – Request for Certificate of Compliance
This matter had been continued from the meeting on January 17, 2018.

Mrs. Bond had contacted the office prior to the meeting to see if it could be continued to the following month. She informed the clerk that she was still working on the items that were discussed with the Commission at the last meeting. The applicants were waiting for the surveyor to come out to the property to define the boundary lines so they could have them permanently marked for future owners. They were also working with Pete Levesque on the MESA review filing required for NHESP.

Andrew made a motion to continue this matter to the next scheduled meeting on March 21, 2018 @ 7:15pm. Phil seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Eversource (Eversource Line ROW near East Longmeadow Rd. & Mill Rd.) –
Request for Determination of Applicability for the Line 1976 Insulator Replacement Project

Andrew recused himself from this matter.

Simon Hildt from BSG appeared before the Board as a representative of Eversource on this matter. He explained that RDA was filed because part of the project involves constructing a gravel access road South of Mill Rd. in order to provide maintenance to the existing transmission structures. They had previously gained access to that area with temporary construction mats due to being considered a NHESP habitat up until 2017. Since the NHESP has revised their maps, this is no longer considered a habitat area.

Mr. Hildt informed the Commission that Eversource would like to construct a gravel road in the same alignment that the temporary mats were laid down previously. This would provide a stable and permanent access to get to the area for maintenance. They may still need temporary mats to get to the structures, but will have easier access to that area. Mr. Hildt pointed out the Eversource owned property to the present abutters on a map. He explained that there are two structures and they would follow the same alignment. This would provide less impact to the Buffer Zone and they would use construction mats on the edge of the field.

The Commission asked what material they would be using for the gravel road. Mr. Hildt informed the Commission members that the road would consist of dense grid gravel and crushed stone. They would remove the grade off the top of soil and put down a fire dense grade. The purpose of the sub layer is to provide drainage.

Susan Alston, an abutter to the property, asked if there would be a fence to prevent people from driving there on their ATVs. Mr. Hildt replied that they have not discussed that yet, but there would be a standard gate along the road. Mrs. Alston informed him that she would be worried that it will not be kept up and will look rusty and ratty. Mr. Hildt stated that the gate would be more modern. Mrs. Alston also asked how often their utility vehicles would be using the road. Mr. Hildt explained that they need to replace the insulator on one structure. This will provide access for a handful of vehicles for a day or two.

Mr. Hildt informed the abutters that they will not be going north because there is a large wetland above it and that they are not in the business of permanently impacting the wetlands.

Dave and Susan Corey, abutters from East Longmeadow, were also present at the meeting. Mr. Corey stated that he is mostly worried about four wheelers in the area. Mrs. Alston agreed, stating that people will think their property is their zone to ride motorcycles, trucks, ATVs, etc. She said there are already people who used ATVs in her front yard and circle around her pool. Mr. Hildt explained that even with a gate, people on ATVs tend to get around them. He informed the abutters that one benefit of the roads versus the mats is that a road may be less enticing or fun for them to ride on.

Mr. Hildt explained that typically wheeled machines are used for maintenance. This is why they need access to get wheeled machines such as bucket trucks to the area. He stated that when replacing a structure, it is usually larger vehicles being used such as excavators.

The farm field is the point where the road would end and the temporary mats would be used. Mrs. Alston asked how long the construction of the gravel road would take. Mr. Hildt replied that building the road should take about a week, stating that this is not a challenging site for them and the crew is very experienced. Material excavated would be removed from the Buffer Zone. It would typically be side cast

material and stabilized with seed. The permanent road would be 16 feet wide. In the areas with steep slopes, they may need to be cut into the embankment when going up the slope to prevent erosion.

The Commission briefly discussed stating that it does not seem like a problem as long as they do not infringe on any wetlands and do not deposit any of that material into the Buffer Zone. The Board also clarified that they will be removing top soil, spreading it and reseeding it.

Mrs. Alston asked about the litter from construction workers on the north side of the road. She said they have damaged the road with rivets. Mr. Hildt informed her that grading out any ruts and removing litter is something they could do.

Phil made a motion to issue a Negative Determination. Ted seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PD Developments, LLC (46 Mountainview Dr.) – Certificate of Compliance on an Enforcement Order
The Commission discussed that the owner has met the conditions in the Enforcement Order that was issued on 1/11/2018. Ted stated that based on his follow up site visit, they should add 2 more wattles. One needs to be placed on each side of the brook in the area that was disturbed to prevent silting before moving forward with installing the well. Once the 2 additional wattles are in place, they can contact the office and Ted will stop back over to take a look. If it is done to the Commission's liking, he will give the authorization to move forward.

The Enforcement Order has been satisfactorily completed. Once the wattles are in place, they can proceed with the drilling of the well.

Bonnie made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance on the Enforcement Order issued on 1/11/2018. Ted seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly McCormick
Conservation Clerk