

# HILLSBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 7, 2016

Hillsborough Town Office

Approved Minutes

Present: Commissioners: Terry Yeaton, Vice Chair; Linda White; Richard Head; Robert Drummond; Ann Ford, Alternate; Jim Young (Arrived 7:10).

John P. Segedy, Recording Secretary & Alternate; David Fullerton, Hillsborough Selectboard

Nate Duford, Eversource Energy; Laurel Boivin, Eversource; Nick Golon, T. F. Moran, Inc.; Linda Stellato; Mike Stellato; Doug Avery, Paul Mooney; Holly Mooney; Ken Avery.

Acting Chair Yeaton called the Hillsborough Conservation Commission (HCC) meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Ann Ford was appointed to vote in place of the vacant position.

## VISITOR BUSINESS

### **1. Eversource Energy – 83 Center Road, Wetland Minimum Impact Expedited Application**

Terry Yeaton recused himself from consideration of this project. Linda White assumed duties as Acting Chairperson.

Nick Golon addressed the Commission on behalf of Eversource Energy. He explained the proposal was to replace an existing substation, circa 1940's, with a new “next generation” pad mounted substation. Nick Golon further explained that there will be a containment box around the pad that will be lined with a membrane that allows water through but not oil. After the new station is installed the old one including the gravel will be removed and the area will be loamed and seeded. Part of the existing curb cut will be retained.

Jim Young arrived.

Nick Golon continued explaining that they were asking for the Commission's support as they were asking for expedited review of their Minimal Impact Wetlands permit. He said that the wetland would be impacted by one pole and two guy wires in a “PSS1E” (Palustrine Scrub-Shrub Wetland, Broad-leaved Deciduous, Seasonally Flooded/Saturated ) wetland. This will have minimal impact on nine square feet. In addition if they are unable to install the pole from the high side then they would further have a temporary impact during the installation. He explained that in doing so they would put down “swamp mats” while working to protect the ground and then apply hay mulch after completion. Nick Golon submitted some pictures during his explanation.

Rob Drummond asked how long the impact (temporary) would be. Nick Golon answered they estimated about eight weeks.

Linda White asked when they are planning on starting the project. Nick Golon answered they were hoping to start as soon as they got approval, hence their request for expedited review.

John Segedy asked if they could use vacuum technology similar to that in their concurrent project at the Jackman facility to avoid having any oil to worry about? Nate Duford explained that those were breakers where this project involved transformers.

Dave Fullerton asked if the membrane was fire resistant? Nick Golon answered: Yes.

Linda White asked if a leak occurred and the membrane was used would it need to be replaced? Nate Duford answered that yes they would replace it.

Mike Stellato asked if there was a leak past the membrane would it contaminate his well that is about 75 feet away? Nick Golon answered Yes it could, but that with the new equipment there is less oil on the site and also the containment system is upgraded from what is currently there.

Richard Head asked if they could explain how the membrane worked? Nick Golon responded No, he didn't have the technical expertise to do so.

Richard Head asked if any components of oil go through the membrane? Nick Golon answered that the membrane is selected specific to the oil being used and is sized to hold 10% more than is present.

Richard Head asked if there are any known leaks in the state? Nick Golon answered that there was one at Skobie Pond in Londonderry.

Richard Head asked why they were adding extra poles? Nate Duford answered that was because with the change of the system, some of the equipment was now on poles.

John Segedy asked if the equipment was on the ground wouldn't containment need to be provided?

Nick Golon said the equipment wasn't made for ground installation.

Rob Drummond asked what type of oil was used in the equipment? Nick Golon answered it was mineral oil and he could provide a MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) for it.

John Segedy asked why they were putting in a lawn rather than returning the ground to natural conditions? Nick Golon said that they weren't planning on maintaining it as a lawn so it would eventually revert to natural conditions although it would be maintained free of trees as most of their line right of ways are.

John Segedy and Ann Ford both expressed that the project appeared to be better than the current conditions.

**Richard Head moved: *To approve the proposal as presented for expedited review.***

**Rob Drummond seconded. Motion passed 5-0.**

**Linda White signed the application on behalf of the HCC.**

Terry Yeaton unrecused himself and resumed duties as Acting Chair.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. March 17, 2016**

**Linda White moved: *To approve the minutes of March 17, 2016 as presented.***

**Rob Drummond seconded. Motion passed 3-0-3 (Rob Drummond, Richard Head and Ann Ford abstained).**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1. Intent to Cut** – Sulphur Hill Road. (M 10, L 9). Rob Drummond suggested having the forester follow up and make sure this cut was away from the pond and any wetlands on the property.
- 2. Intent to Cut** – East Washington Road (M 1, L 9).
- 3. Department of Environmental Services (DES)** – 99 Gould Pond Road (M 14, L 625 & 626). Follow Up To Letter of Deficiency.
- 4. Site Plan – Request for Comment** – Eversource Energy, 8 Sawmill Road (M 11G, L 307). The HCC noted that their questions had previously been answered when Eversource presented this project at a previous meeting. Consensus of the Commission was that there were no comments to be made. Acting Chair Yeaton completed the comment sheet on behalf of the Commission.
- 5. Town of Hillsborough** – Monthly Expense report.

**OLD BUSINESS****1. Meeting With Selectboard - Land Use Change Tax -**

The HCC was reminded that they were on Selectboard agenda for 6:45 on Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup>. Most of the Commission indicated they were planning on attending which would constitute a quorum. John Segedy will post the meeting.

Richard Head provided copies of RSA 76:16, 79-A:7 & 10. He explained his understanding of the statutes to the Commission. Richard explained that RSA 76:16 contained general authority for a Selectboard to abate property taxes only. He further explained that it was RSA 79A that dealt with the Land Use Change Tax and that it specifically noted it “shall” be imposed on the “change of use” not on the land, and that no person shall be exempt. Richard further pointed out that RSA 79A-10 allows for abatement but without the broad authority that 76:10 has, indicating it should be interpreted to apply for correction of error such as a miscalculation. The Commission discussed the matter further and consensus was to have him present these arguments to the Selectboard.

**2. Trails & Signs – River walk**

Terry Yeaton reported he had marked some trail changes previously discussed. The HCC discussed setting up a work day. Consensus to table until next meeting as people's schedules were busy for the next two weeks.

John Segedy reported having heard that the Chamber of Commerce is starting a beautification committee and may have interest in helping to spruce up the River walk.

Terry Yeaton reported he had taken many pictures of signs in surrounding towns. They are on a CD but there are too many for e-mailing them to everyone. John Segedy will bring the HCC computer to the next meeting so they can be viewed.

**3. Lighting**

Discussed briefly. Jim Young hadn't spoken to Mike Borden yet, but will do so.

**4. Corvus**

John Segedy recused himself from discussion.

There was a brief discussion of the presentation given in Bradford.

Rob Drummond thought that there was a lot of information that wasn't clear yet.

There was a general discussion of noise carrying and silencers.

John Segedy unrecused himself.

**5. Facebook Page – Pictures**

There was a discussion of the HCC Facebook page.

**6. River Management**

Terry Yeaton reported a notice in The Bradford Bridge regarding a meeting that is being held on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the Warner Town Hall regarding possible nomination of the Warner River to the NH River Management and Protection Program.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Richard Head moved: *To adjourn.***

**Linda White seconded. Motion passed 6-0 at 8:58 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted:

John P. Segedy  
Recording Secretary  
Approved April 21, 2016