



## **PAXTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**December 10, 2015**

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**Location and Time:** John Bauer Senior Center 7:30-9:30pm

**Attendance: Commissioners:** Michael Voorhis (Vice Chair), Gerry Ryan, Tim Luring, Zach Ferguson (Secretary), Holly Robert (Assoc. Member), Jim Robert (Assoc. Member). **Others present:** Mia McDonald (Cons. Agent), Chris Fox, BSC Group and Brandon Carr, Leidos.

**Minutes:** Minutes of 11/12/15 meeting were read and accepted with two changes. GR motioned and TL seconded to accept the minutes with changes, all in favor.

**Bills:** MM payroll, Eagle Scout Project materials and the Telegram & Gazette bill for the legal ad (GR motioned and TL seconded), all voted in favor of paying all the bills.

#### **New Business –**

**Request for Determination of Applicability – Treasure Valley Substation,** Massachusetts Electric Company, represented by Chris Fox, BSC Group and Brandon Carr of Leidos, proposes to install a new 23kV distribution line to connect Solterra Systems' new photovoltaic (PV) generation sites (solar arrays) in Spencer to the existing 23kV distribution system at Treasure Valley Substation in Paxton. The connection will require the installation of a new distribution line within an existing ROW. As part of the Project, six (6) new distribution structures and 40 linear feet of underground conduit will need to be installed within the 100-foot buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland. No work is proposed that will impact the resource areas; new access at Nanigian Road, gravel drive; two "H" frame structures to span pond, greatest distance possible, swamp mats used to access installation.

The Commission discussed conditions: confirm ownership of right of way, notify Paxton Conservation at least 24 hours prior to the start of work and work shall conform to National Grid's Environmental Guidance for Best Management Practices. GR motioned and TL seconded and voted in favor to issue a negative determination of applicability.

**Lot 2, Davis Hill Road –** Kevin Quinn of Quinn Engineering representing Robert Clark came before the Commission to request a determination of an insignificant project change to the work, including a 1,300 s.f. reduction in the footprint of the proposed house. The Commission requested a full listing of all changes from the approved plan. Mr. Quinn requested to be placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

**Request for Extension for Order of Conditions, DEP File No. 257-0277– Trails work** The Commission discussed the recent completion of a portion of the work included in the Order of Conditions; and voted to extend the OOC for another 3 years to complete the remaining work. GR motioned and TL seconded, all voted in favor of extending the Order of Conditions.

**Request for Certificate of Compliance – 11 Ashwood Road, DEP File No. 257-0295 ZF and MM** completed a site visit and the work was completed as permitted and the site was stable. A new brush pile was observed adjacent to the stream; the homeowner Craig Miller stated that pile was their annual brush

pile and would be burned. The Commission discussed that all burning would occur during burning season, with a permit, and at least 25 feet from the stream. GR motioned and TL seconded, all voted in favor of issuing the Certificate of Compliance.

**Request for Certificate of Compliance – 134 Davis Hill Road, Lot1, DEP File No. 257-0266** Kevin Quinn of Quinn Engineering representing Rpbert Clark came before the Commission to request a Certificate of Compliance for the work. MM had completed a site visit and the site was stable; The Commission discussed whether the restoration area (19,000 sf outside of stone wall) was completed as designed was requested – no plantings, but vegetation had fully returned; fill had been brought in to the height of the stone wall; the Commission requested a list of deviations from the approved plan. No vote was taken at this time.

**Other Business:**

**Board of Health Plans:**

108 Holden Street – MM visited the site and work was almost complete; HR noted that intermittent stream had been delineated on that property as part of the Route 31 work in the previous year. MM to conduct a site visit to further inspect for resource areas.

42 West Street – The Commissioners discussed that there are resource areas on the property and a site visit will be needed to determine if a filing shall be necessary.

157 Suomi Street (Lot 10) – The Commission requested confirmation of an Order of Conditions for Lot 10.

**Draft Bylaw & Regulations:** The Commission discussed edits to the bylaw and decided to keep the 100 foot buffer and not extend to 300 feet; no notification to abutters required for Requests for Determination of Applicability. MM requested that the Commissioners read the by-law and regulations to look for typos and edits. A large discussion shall be held at the January meeting.

**Trails:** The Commission discussed hosting a meeting this winter to organize a spring cleanup. The Commission would also like to be included in the Town's Annual Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at the White Building.

Respectfully submitted,



Mia McDonald

Conservation Agent

**Reference Documents:**

\*As noted in the minutes, on file with the Paxton Conservation Commission.

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