



## Town of West Boylston

140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

# Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting
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Monday, 4/4/2022 6:00p.m./ MEETINGS TAKING PLACE AT WEST BOYLSTON TOWN HALL, LAND USE MEETING ROOM

Members Present
Members NOT Present
Invited Guests

William Chase (Chair), Colin Cahill, Emily Eaton, Carl Haarmann, Jeffrey Perkins (Associate Member) and Clerk Toby Goldstein.

David Mercurio (Vice-Chair)

N/A

Welcome – Call to Order

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of 3/7/2022 Meeting

Motion Originator

Ms. Eaton – approved as written

Motion Seconded

Mr. Haarmann – approved as written

Minutes of 2/15/2022 Meeting – Continued to May 2 Meeting

Treasurer – Financial Report

Mr. Chase reviewed the report prior to the meeting; discussed with board.

Motion to Accept

N/A

Seconded

N/A

At 6:00 pm, Ms. Eaton made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Haarmann seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Hearing, Erin Whoriskey, on behalf of New England Power Company, for Notice of Intent, for performing of exploratory soil borings for a subsurface investigation along the 313/343 transmission line right-of-way (ROW) between structures 112 and 139 at 131 Temple Street, Fairbanks Street (Map 115, Lot 2), and 98 Fairbanks Street, West Boylston, MA:

(Ms. Eaton read aloud the public hearing notice). (Molly Lennon represented New England Power Co.). Ms. Lennon explained why they were present this evening; the applicant wants to perform soil borings to aid in the engineering and design of a larger refurbishing project described in the public hearing notice, along the transmission line in West Boylston as well as some other towns. She explained that the work involves 7 soil boring locations, including 4 within the buffer zone and 3 within the riverfront area, bordering vegetated wetland and bordering land subject to flooding. They are proposing no permanent impacts, only temporary. Ms. Lennon described that the holes will be made by a hammer-style drill, up to 35 feet deep, small soil samples will be taken along the way and the soil will be replaced, and that each boring will cause less than ½ square foot decrease of soil temporarily. She noted that TRC did wetland delineations in May and June of 2020, and based on the delineations they can determine impacts.

(Ms. Lennon showed the board work photos within the wetlands). Referring to Page 6 of the filing, she explained that, at Structure #120, the existing structure has two legs that straddle the stream. They are proposing two borings there, one on either side of the stream (she explained the structure to Ms. Eaton). She continued that boring #120B is in a bordering vegetated wetland and #120A is in the buffer zone, and both are in the riverfront area and land subject to flooding. Also there will be temporary impacts due to the work pad that will be there. She added that there will be a temporary timber mat bridge for access across the stream.

Next she referred to Page 9, Structure #134, which has three legs within the wetlands; they are proposing one boring in the wetland, two within the buffer zone and access across the wetlands. They are also proposing access across the wetland with a small amount of timber matting crossing the wetland and more timber matting for the work pad at the boring locations.

On Page 10, structure #139 has two legs within the wetlands; they propose two borings in the wetland, one in the buffer zone, and need to map the wetlands for equipment access, and map it for the work pad at those boring locations. She asserted that the work will have temporary impact. Ms. Lennon responded to Mr. Chase that this project is part of a larger boring effort in multiple towns. She discussed how long the work will take and that they have to work within the period from April to the fall. She replied that once they begin working at a structure they will work until the work is complete, and they will take the bridging down when done. She added that each boring typically takes one day. She agreed with Mr. Chase that they will probably work from May to October.

In response to Ms. Eaton, Ms. Lennon explained that the purpose of this project was to aid in a future refurbishing project of trying to upgrade and replace some of these structures for design purposes. She explained to Mr. Phillips that the aforementioned structures are needed for overhead wires, not for tunneling activity in the future. She responded to Ms. Eaton that the new structures will be near the old ones. Ms. Lennon noted that they will follow National Grid's best management practices and described that they will use wattles, erosion controls and construction mattings, and after the work is done will stabilize with straw and seed mix. She replied to Ms. Eaton that they were not sure when the replacements will be done.

Mr. Chase then asked if there were any comments from the public? There were none so Ms. Eaton made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Haarmann seconded. All in favor. Ms. Eaton then made a motion to accept the proposal and plans as presented and issue an Order of Conditions. Mr. Haarmann seconded. All in favor.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

#### **Minutes of March 7, 2022 Meeting:**

After review of the draft minutes by the board members, Ms. Eaton made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Haarmann seconded. All in favor.

#### **Minutes of February 15, 2022 Meeting:**

As there were questions regarding the minutes, Mr. Chase suggested that the minutes be continued again to the next meeting (May 2). The board agreed.

**Treasurer's/Financial Report:** Mr. Chase reviewed the most recent report prior to the meeting and discussed it this evening with the board.

**Miscellaneous Mail and Paperwork:** Mr. Chase had reviewed any mail prior to the meeting and informed the board that there was nothing of importance for them.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022, AT WEST BOYLSTON TOWN HALL.**

With no further questions or comments, Mr. Haarmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor.

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_