



**Town of West Boylston**  
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

## Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

<b>Date / Time / Location of Meeting</b>	<b>Monday, 10-7-2019/7:00 p.m./West Boylston Town Offices, Land Use Meeting Room #120/131</b>
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<b>Members Present</b>	<b>William Chase (Chair), John Hadley (Vice-Chair), David Mercurio (Vice-Chair), Emily Eaton, Carl Haarmann and Clerk Toby Goldstein.</b>
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<b>Members NOT Present</b>	<b>Katelyn Ivers (Associate Member)</b>
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<b>Invited Guests</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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**Welcome – Call to Order**

**Time: 7:00 p.m. (Motion made by Mr. Mercurio, seconded by Ms. Eaton)**

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

**Minutes of 9/9/19**

**Motion Originator**

**Mr. Mercurio (accept as written)**

**Motion Seconded**

**Mr. Haarmann**

**Treasurer – Financial Report**

**Mr. Chase reviewed report dated 9/30/19**

**Motion to Accept**

**N/A**

**Seconded**

**N/A**

At 7:00 pm, Mr. Mercurio made a motion to open the meeting. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor.

**Public Hearing, Kellie Doherty for New England Power Company d/b/a/ National Grid, Request for Determination of Applicability, 196 Temple Street:**

(Mr. Mercurio read aloud the public hearing posting). (Duane Choquette represented). Mr. Choquette explained that his company, TRC, was subcontracted by National Grid, and that he was there to discuss the proposed installation of a buried conduit, which would be part of National Grid's shieldwire replacement project

on the transmission line in West Boylston. (He referred to a map that he had posted to a bulletin board). He asserted that this shieldwire replacement would fall under the maintenance clause in the Wetland Protection Act. He mentioned as part of this work an optical cable connecting the West Boylston substation to the transmission lines, and explained that this is new construction that does not fall under maintenance and is not done in a roadway and does not fall under buried conduit exemptions, so they are looking for an RDA for the applicability of the WPA on this line. Mr. Choquette further described that there would be a 300-foot cable (220 feet of which will be located outside of the existing substation), which would be a simple optical cable housed inside of four-inch PVC pipe, of 220-foot length; they want to run two side-by-side in case one fails. They would be digging a three-foot by three-foot trench, through the uplands within 100 feet of a bordering vegetated wetland, and the conduits will be sequestered to the side of the trench. Once the conduits are in place, they will be cased inside of three inches of concrete. There will be about a 12-inch by 8-inch concrete box. He said this would be taken out of the trench and placed back on top; most of the soil removed will be compacted and placed back into the trench and left over soil would be spread on National Grid property in the uplands. He suggested that they can do mulching and seeding if necessary or other stabilization measures taken. Mr. Choquette continued that, regarding the installation itself, there is a wetland west of the substation in a small depression, so they plan on routing the line around it, and snaking it around and between all existing structures; he asserted that they would use best management practices which are standards for National Grid projects, such as straw wattles as erosion controls to separate the work space from the wetland, and noted that they will have an environmental inspector on-site full-time during construction and gave some examples of problems that could occur on-site and how they would be handled.

In response to Mr. Mercurio, Mr. Choquette pointed out the wetlands on the map, and where they extended. In response to a question from Mr. Chase regarding access to the pipe, Mr. Choquette explained that it will tie into the control building with a small box. Mr. Chase verified that this would fall under the regular maintenance. Mr. Choquette pointed out where their access will be, and said that they will keep the work uplands and avoid the wetland; he asserted that the proposal is straightforward but wanted to bring it before the Commission. The board had no problem with the proposed work. With no further discussion or questions, Mr. Hadley made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Mercurio seconded. All in favor. (In response to a question from Mr. Mercurio, Mr. Choquette replied that they hope to begin work in October, before any snow, and estimate that it should only take a few days). Mr. Chase added that Concomm would just add this work to the maintenance that National Grid already does. (Mr. Choquette then answered a question of Mr. Haarmann, stating that they were not replacing cable but new cable was being placed, which was why they could not put that work under the maintenance clause of the WPA). With all final questions answered, Mr. Hadley made a motion to approve the plan as presented, "West Boylston Conduit Resource Map", dated August 2019, and issue a negative determination. Mr. Mercurio seconded. All in favor.

#### **Minutes of September 9, 2019 Meeting:**

After review of the draft minutes by the Concomm members, Mr. Mercurio made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Haarmann seconded. All in favor.

#### **Update on Mr. Chase's Plan for Trails:**

(Project area is now referred to as "Blueberry Hill" walking path). Mr. Chase replied to Ms. Eaton that the path had not been surveyed yet. Mr. Hadley explained that the Town is doing an engineering study of the water that is often present at the top of the hill, and they are thinking of having a pipe drain the water right through the property. Mr. Chase noted that \$7,000 was given for the extension when it enters West Boylston. He explained to Mr. Mercurio that there is a collapsed culvert in there now, and described where it runs. Mr. Hadley continued, that he thinks the Town's engineer wants to tie it in somehow and have it drain it in the wetlands, and noted that the money for this project will be discussed at the Town meeting.

#### **Update on Poison Ivy Maintenance Plan by Katelyn Ivers:**

(Ms. Ivers was not present this evening). In response to discussion at the September 9 meeting suggesting that the board look into doing a pilot project for goatscaping poison ivy removal on Tivnan Drive, Mr.

Chase reported that he spoke with Sheriff Evangelidis, who said that he did not want to be involved in that project as his people do not have the kind of mobility where they would worry about it. Mr. Chase also noted that it is difficult to get money for this venture. The board discussed some of the difficulties associated with this type of project, such as the fact that the poison ivy must have the roots removed in order to be killed, and they cannot do spraying because of the drinking water supply. Mr. Haarmann mentioned that he knew someone, a pruner, with goats, and said that he can ask her for prices that would be involved if she were to use her goats for this project.

**Treasurer’s Report and/or financial approvals:**

Mr. Chase reviewed and discussed the latest report, dated 9/30/19. He notified the board of how much was in the Concomm account. He also told them that he would like to go back two years through the files and work with Ms. Goldstein to send notification at the end of the year to those who had not filed for Certificates of Compliance.

**Miscellaneous Mail and/or Paperwork Including Correspondence from DCR, DEP and MACC;**

Mr. Chase informed the board that he went through this already and found nothing of importance for the board to be aware of that they didn’t already receive.

**Next scheduled meeting – NOVEMBER 4, 2019**

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Mercurio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor.

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

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

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

