



TOWN OF BOW

Conservation Commission

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Approved as amended on July 13, 2020

Bow Conservation Commission

June 15, 2020

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Bow Conservation Commission was held on June 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Meeting Software. Chair Sandy Crystall called the meeting to order with reading the virtual meeting checklist and introduction of the members.

Members present: Sandy Crystall, Wendy Waskin, Bob Ball, Michael Hansen, and Dik Dagavarian.

Items for Consideration/Discussion

Application #403-20w: Eversource Energy – Easement on Block 2, Lots 51, 53-E, 53-E23, 70, & 200, located at 85 & 45 Allen Rd, lot off Allen Rd, 11 Bow Bog Rd, & 431 River Rd. Wetlands Protection Conditional Use Permit for 125 sq. ft. permanent and 46,030 sq. ft. temporary wetland impact to remove 2 utility structures and replace 8 utility structures along the A253 Transmission Line.

Lindsey White from GZA Environmental Consultants and Jeni Menendez from Eversource introduced themselves and presented the application details. Ms. White described the extent of the project, which involves the replacement of eight existing utility structures, and removal of two existing utility structures along the A253 Transmission Line; the areas where work will be done; type of wetlands and their function value assessments; ways to minimize impacts to wetlands and buffers; best management practices for wildlife protection; work area restoration; and monitoring the work. Ms. White also noted that they are working with the Town Board of Selectmen to request access through the Town owned private road which could eliminate creating new access through the powerline easement and reduce wetland/buffer impacts. Ms. White and Ms. Menendez answered questions about access roads; timeframe and duration; why the work is done incrementally as opposed to replacing all the structures in one area at once; vegetation maintenance schedule for the easement; rare and endangered species and how construction will be monitored for those; restoration of impacted areas; snowmobile trails in the work area; and changes in wetland/buffer impacts if the Town road is used for access.

Mr. Hansen made a motion to approve the conditional use permit as presented. Ms. Crystall made a friendly amendment that the Commission would recommend to the Planning Board to approve the conditional use permit. Mr. Hansen seconded the friendly amendment. Motion was passed by a roll call vote 5:0: Ms. Crystall – yes; Ms. Waskin – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Ball – yes; Mr. Dagavarian – yes. After a short discussion about a recommendation from the Commission to approve the use of the Town owned road for access, Mr. Ball made a motion that the Commission would recommend to the Select Board to approve the use of the Town owned road for access (the Commission would follow up to find out the status of the decision and try to weigh in, if that decision has not been made yet). Ms. Waskin duly seconded and motion passed by a roll call vote 5:0: Ms. Crystall – yes; Ms. Waskin – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Ball – yes; Mr. Dagavarian – yes.

Richardson subdivision restoration plan

Ms. Crystall noted that the subdivision had been approved by the Planning Board with conditions set by the Conservation Commission, which were the provision of a restoration plan and removal of woody stuff from wetland buffers in a specific area identified by the Commission. Jacques Belanger from J.E.

Belanger Land Surveying went over the restoration plan, areas to be restored, proposed plantings, and seed to be used, etc. Discussion ensued about the area on the plan seeming smaller compared to the original discussion by the Commission; type of restoration seed mix; culvert under the driveway; monitoring the area for invasives for three years (or the same timeframe the restoration area is monitored) and incorporating corresponding verbiage into the deed; extend of the wetland buffer clean up and whether uplands should be included in the cleanup and where the debris would be moved to. Mr. Belanger reiterated the conditions to be the change of the wetland seed mix, monitoring for invasives for three years, and adding the verbiage to the deed about the said monitoring. He also said that he can reduce the scale to better show the restoration area relative to the whole plan.

Mr. Ball made a motion to approve the restoration plan with the conditions that the native wetland seed mix is used, that the provisions for three year monitoring are incorporated into the deed, and that additional wood removal is performed in the specified buffer area and the house site to the extent possible. Mr. Hansen duly seconded and motion passed by a roll call vote 5:0: Ms. Crystall – yes; Ms. Waskin – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Ball – yes; Mr. Dagavarian – yes.

NRI update

Review of [draft report](#), [maps](#) and [StoryMap](#).

NRI draft was part of the packet and most members requested more time to review the draft. Discussion ensued about the Story Map format and which changes may be done; some items that may have not been done, like wildlife tracking information (which Ms. Crystall said was included elsewhere in the report), and field work in the agricultural areas (which Ms. Crystall said was done based on the habitat vs. agriculture, but she will check on it); and whether a final public presentation will occur and in which format. General consensus was that the Commission should schedule a separate meeting to discuss the NRI. Meeting was scheduled to take place on July 1, 2020 via ZOOM at 7:00 PM.

Turee Pond - Sampling, milfoil – status

Mr. Ball said that there were no updates as the lab was closed up until now. Ms. Crystall showed the aerial map of Turee Pond with marks where milfoil was recently discovered, so there will be diver/DASH work performed soon. Ms. Crystall also said that she noticed that *Phragmites* was migrating along the pond edge.

Other items

Ms. Crystall noted that NHDES has finally received the Richardson application for review and she will follow up with the information from the meeting tonight.

Status of land donation (Pushee/Chadwick)

Ms. Crystall noted that she has been working with the owner and the Town Manager's office on the deed language and that it may need a survey and a title search.

Responsibilities for projects/ tasks

Trails - BOS work

Ms. Crystall spoke about her outing with Bow Open Spaces representatives to look at trails. She asked members if anyone was interested to take up working with BOS on trails as a project. Mr. Hansen agreed to take it up.

Ms. Crystall spoke about the Walker Forest logging operation that made the Commission \$2,000 in income.

Unapproved 5/18/2020 Minutes.

The May 18, 2020 minutes were reviewed and changes were made. *Ms. Waskin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended (with the addition of the statement on the Walker Forest), which was duly seconded by Mr. Ball. Roll call vote was taken: Ms. Crystall – yes; Ms. Waskin – yes; Mr. Ball – yes; Mr. Hansen – yes; Mr. Dagavarian – yes. Motion passed with a 5:0 vote.*

Next meeting: July 13, 2020 (7 pm)

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.