

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AGENDA
AUGUST 1, 2007

7:15 Request for Determination - 315 - 362 Main Street - Keyspan Energy Delivery

BSC Group - replacement of an existing 2-inch diameter natural gas main with an 8-inch diameter plastic natural gas main within 100' of a wetland.

Notice of Intent - 315 - 362 Main Street - Keyspan Energy Delivery

Certificate of Compliance -- 149 Central Street - 85-512 July 1996 – no conditions in perpetuity

Minutes

June 6 comments rec'd by TT, JA
June 20 comments rec'd by TT
July 18 forthcoming

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Janet Adachi, Frances Portante, Bill Froberg, Linda Serafini, Patty Lee

ADMINISTRATOR: Tom Tidman

RECORDING SECRETARY: Andrea Ristine

VISITORS: Ken Fields, David Gedaminski, Paul Bradley

7:15 Request for Determination - 315 - 362 Main Street - Keyspan Energy Delivery

Ken Fields from BSC Group presented plans for the proposed replacement of an existing two-inch-diameter natural gas main with an eight-inch-diameter plastic natural gas main within 100' of a wetland. Keyspan wishes to do the replacement before the upcoming winter. Activities will only be within the buffer zones of bordering vegetated wetlands and an intermittent stream. All proposed work will be within the confines of the existing roadway. Controlling sediment from entering adjacent wetlands during the activity is his major concern. Replacing the gas main will involve trench work on either side of the Route 2 bridge; the area where the gas main crosses Route 2 will be enclosed in an existing steel cased utility bay. Silt bags will be used for siltation prevention around all catchbasins within the roadway.

Upon query by Ms. Miles, Mr. Fields reported that the project should take three to four weeks to complete; dewatering would be in the event of a storm. The contractor probably will not work during a storm event. The existing Route 27 roadway is elevated from the surrounding land.

Upon query by Mr. Froberg, Mr. Fields reported that the closest point of activity from the edge of wetlands is approximately 50' located at 348 Main Street. All activities will be within the existing roadway. The trench will be approximately 52" in depth. Keyspan will be working on the south side of Main Street and crossing over to the north side. Trench work will be backfilled daily.

Dave Gedaminski from Keyspan Energy reported that the proposed replacement of the existing two-inch gas main will match up to the existing 8" gas main on both sides of the Route 2 bridge.

Upon query by Ms. Miles, Mr. Fields reported that the wetlands were delineated by Heather Valliant who is a wetland scientist; Mr. Tidman has verified the delineation.

Upon query by Ms. Adachi, Mr. Fields reported that the existing drainage system within Main Street will take storm runoff and silt bags will be placed around all catchbasins within the roadway to prevent any potential silt from entering the adjacent wetlands.

Upon query by Mr. Froberg, Paul Bradley from Keyspan Energy stated that, weather permitting, they will be able to complete up to a couple hundred feet per day. Trenches will not be left open over night with the exception of a small area that will have a road plate placed over. Excavated materials will not be stockpiled over night. The total length of trench work will be 1,100 linear feet.

7:32 Hearing no further comments or questions, Ms. Miles closed the meeting.

Determination - 315 - 362 Main Street - Keyspan Energy Delivery

Mr. Froberg moved that the Commission find the work to be within its jurisdiction but will not impact the wetland (negative 3), Ms. Portante 2nd; unanimous.

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Ms. Miles opened the hearing.

Mr. Fields withdrew the NOI filing based on issuance of the negative determination for the work as presented earlier on this date.

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Ms. Lee recused herself from the vote as she has affiliations with the Infant Toddlers Children Center.

Mr. Tidman reported that the project relating to DEP File No. 85-512 is complete.

Mr. Froberg moved that the Commission issue a Certificate as recommended by Mr. Tidman. Ms. Adach 2nd; motion passed with five aye and one abstained.

Other Business

Water Withdrawals from Resource Areas - Mr. Tidman reported that there is a growing concern with the Land Stewardship Committee (LSCoM) regarding the withdrawal of water from local brooks, streams and ponds for garden and landscape use. Currently there is no law under the Wetlands Protection Act or the Bylaw prohibiting this activity. The LSCoM would like the Commission to research the possibility of getting something in the Bylaw to prohibit withdrawals from resource areas but it is difficult to prove that there is an impact. One location that is a problem is at the end of Wheeler Lane where the adjacent homeowner has a hose crossing over Town-owned conservation land. The LSCoM would like the Commission to support its effort to speak with individuals and send letters to them.

Upon query by Mr. Froberg, Mr. Tidman reported that enforcement of the water withdrawal limits relating to Quail Ridge Country Club (QRCC) is the purview of the Board of Health (BoH); he is not sure that the BoH would be concerned with residential withdrawals.

QRCC – Mr. Tidman reported that QRCC has submitted preliminary plans proposing the reduction of the current 18-hole course to a 9-hole course and the proposed construction of 177 senior housing units. The Planning Department has requested that Town boards review the senior residence special permit application and submit comments by September 10, 2007. Mr. Tidman noted that the original wetland delineation for the site has expired as it is over three years old; the Applicant will need a new delineation if it is to go forward with the proposed changes to the site.

Beavers – Mr. Tidman reported on problems relating to beaver activity in the area of Stow, Martin and Robbins Streets. Mr. Tidman applied for and received a beaver removal permit for a period of 10 days from the Health Department. A trapper has been hired and is currently working in this area to remove some of the beaver population.

Acton Day – September 15, 2007 – Mr. Tidman noted that all local community groups are encouraged and offered the opportunity to have information tables at the event.

Fall Camp out at Camp Acton – Mr. Tidman reported that the LSCoM is sponsoring a campout on September 22nd; all are invited and can sign up through the Recreation Department's Fall Activity Program.

Nagog Hill Conservation Land (NHCL) – Mr. Tidman reported that a portion of the NHCL is leased by the owners of the adjacent Hybird Farm (the McConnons). The farm and the conservation land were originally a single property (the Quin Farm) that was purchased by the Town of Acton. In order to underwrite the cost of the purchase of the property, the Town surveyed and subdivided the farm and associated house from the rest of the property and accepted sealed bids for the house and farm. The McConnons purchased the farm and associated house from the Town and lease a portion of NHCL from the Town for grazing horses. The lease has expired so the Commission must decide whether and under what terms to continue the lease.

8:17 Meeting adjourned.

Terrence Maitland

Terrence Maitland, Chair

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