

Town of Blandford

Conservation Commission Minutes

August 24, 2020 6:00 PM

6:00 p.m. Meeting Opened

Attendance: John Piper, Colleen Doyle, Dick Gates, and Jon Letendre

Melissa Kaplan, David Askew

1. Review Previous Meeting Notes

A. R. Gates motioned to accept the drafted minutes of August 10, 2020 as written, Colleen Doyle second, unanimous vote.

2. New Business

A. Public Hearing for Eversource - 1421- Off ROW Road improvement and culvert replacement Notice of Intent submittal

Public Hearing opened and Melissa and David gave an overview of the project. Project involves proposed improvements to an existing access road and a culvert replacement. Melissa stated that there would be very little impact from the culvert replacement.

R. Gates asked if the project was one activity or 2 and if it was 2 that the filing fee should be adjusted. Commission also inquired about the inconsistency of the culvert size based on various references to it in the NOI submittal. Melissa stated the culvert would be 24 inch diameter. Commission also inquired about inconsistencies in the submittal regarding the culvert work being done "in the dry". Dave stated the project can be done in dry before snow melt. Commission inquired about lack of detailed construction drawings for the culvert and proposed erosion controls. Comments received from Mass DEP regarding the culvert working being located within the riverfront area of Wheeler Brook were discussed. Melissa indicated that was missed and could be addressed in a future submittal. Applicants

indicated they would also be seeking a 401 Water Quality Certification from Mass DEP for the project. Melissa and Dave stated it would take 1 to 2 months for construction and could possibly start in October depending on receipt of the 401. Need for access through Kelly's land for the three structures was discussed and Commission also inquired about the existing gravel access road that will be widened and had concerns about prior issues with water flow.

Based on clarifications and additional information required, R. Gates made motion to continue Public Hearing to Sept. 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM. John Piper second, Motion accepted unanimously.

B. Gibbs Road land (for sale) inquiry. Not our jurisdiction.

3. Continuing Business

- A. Certificate of Compliance Request – Syncarpha Realty – Chester Road Solar Site
- B. Wetland mitigation culvert and drainage repairs along I-91 - JM Fisk Environmental - Awaiting a formal re-submittal from Jacobs Engineering
- C. Shepard farm and Long Hill Conservation area possible improvements: parking, access, signage.
- D. Discuss status of potential violations at Brookman Drive (Parcel 401A-55) in follow up to 4-16-2020 site visit.
- E. Discuss overall status of Chester Rd (Syncarpha), Chester Road (rolling potato), North Blandford Road, George Millard Rd. And Otis Stage road solar projects.
- F. Inspection for Riverfront Restoration, Cobble Mountain Road. (Follow up to site visit.)
- G. Discuss joint planning/conservation commission meeting for September 2, 2020

Additional Items

John R Piper

Allen Dazell

Richard W Gate