



TOWN OF HUDSON

Conservation Commission

Jim Battis, Chairman

Nancy Brucker, Selectmen Liaison

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DATE: 20 October 2014

MEETING MINUTES: Below is a listing of minutes for the Hudson Conservation Commission. Minutes are not a verbatim record of each meeting, but rather represent a summary of the discussion and actions taken at the meeting. All Conservation Commission meetings are televised live and repeated during the following week on HCTV, cable television channel 22. Official copies of the minutes are available to read and copy at the Town Engineer's Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.).

Should you have any questions concerning these minutes or wish to see the original recording, please contact the Town Engineer's Office at 603-886-6008.

A regular meeting of the Hudson Conservation Commission (HCC) was held in the Community Development Conference Room of Town Hall.

Members of the Commission present: J. Battis, R. Brownrigg, K. Dickinson, P. Dubay, R. Jurewicz

Members of the Commission excused: None

Members of the Commission absent: None

Member of Town Staff present: Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer

Board of Selectman Representative: Absent

Seating of Alternates: None

Called to Order at 7:01 pm

I. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Public Service of New Hampshire**
 - 115 kV Transmission Line Reconstruction #K165
 - Minimum Wetlands Impact Expedited Application

Mr. Battis stated that this type of application has been seen in the past for maintenance or upgrading of transmission lines in Hudson. The permit application is to the State and the Conservation Commission is asked for input, if the Commission desires, regarding the application. Mr. Hutton Snow, project manager for PSNH, gave a summary of the project running approximately 5 miles from the Power Street substation in Hudson to a point in Litchfield, NH. The project is a line rebuild meaning a new line will be built parallel to the existing line and once energized, the old line will be taken down. Dan Roukowski from Tighe & Bond, Westfield, MA, provided more detailed information. Within Hudson, they flagged 14 different wetlands along 2.25 miles in Hudson and the line was designed to minimize impact on these wetlands. Of 33 structures being replaced, 11 will either be in or require access through wetlands. Total permanent impact is 63 sq. ft. with temporary impacts 39,764 sq. ft. for placement of swamp mats for construction and removal of old poles. In response to a query from Mr. Brownrigg, Mr. Roukowski provided a detailed description of the construction methods for wetland areas. The Town Engineer requested clarification on the process of removal of old poles which was provided. Mr. Dickinson made queries concerning the ability of the swamp mats to carry the vehicle loads required in the reconstruction and was assured that the mats have been demonstrated to carry significantly heavier equipment than will be used in this effort without significant impact to the wetlands. He also asked out methods that would be used to minimize the possible introduction of invasive species during construction and was told that inspection of the mats before placement was required. In addition, as no soils are brought into the sites, introduction of invasive species is minimal.

Mr. Battis noted that in previous applications the Commission has found PSNH to have conducted their wetland operations in a reasonable manner. Mr. Dickinson stated that the crossings seemed to be in areas intended to minimize the impacts.

Motion to waive the Commission's rights to intervene in the application under RSA 482-A:11.

Motion by: R. Brownrigg

Seconded by: K. Dickinson

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

B. Other Business:

A. Stewardship of Conserved Lands

Mr. Battis reported he and Mr. Brownrigg had completed the required annual stewardship inspection of the Ingersoll Property on Griffin Road. He had, however not submitted the paperwork yet. The planned stewardship survey of the Musquash Conservation land was delayed due to weather and will be rescheduled at the convenience of the members. Mr. Dickinson reported he had done several site visits to sections of the land and did not note any changes.

C. Financial Status:

Mr. Battis stated that he had presented the proposed FY 16 budget to the Board of Selectmen. There were several questions about continuing the invasive aquatic plant treatments at Robinson and Ottarnic Pond. In the end, members of the Board of Selectmen appeared to accept the budget as presented, although the final acceptance would not come until a later date.

D. Correspondence:

Mr. Battis noted that the Commission received a survey from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions. Other correspondence included the acceptance of the Musquash Conservation Land kiosk Boy Scout Project by the Board of Selectmen. Other correspondence included notification from the Lower Merrimack Local Advisory Council of opens for Hudson representatives and a notification of an Alteration of Terrain Permit application from the NHDES for Rolling Woods Subdivision, Map 44, Lot 21. Finally, the Commission received a Wetlands Minor Impact application for the NHDES for Map 128, Lots 7 &8, 300 Webster Street, Hudson.

E. Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the 8 September 2014 minutes as presented.

Motion by: K. Dickinson
Seconded by: R. Brownrigg

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

F. Commissioner's Comments:

Mr. Dickinson requested an update on the possible Boy Scout project at the Town Forest. Mrs. Dubay stated that nothing has been completed but that there is interest. A site walk was conducted and the US Fish and Wildlife representative was enthusiastic about the numerous habitats on the site but that ATV traffic was an issue.

Motion to enter into non-public session RSA 91-A:3. II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

Motion by: R. Jurewicz
Seconded by: P. Dubay

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Discussions during the non-public session centered on the best path forward for the purchase of a conservation easement on land at Map 201 Lot 012-000. It was determined that the chair should seek the sense of the Board of Selectmen on the purchase before proceeding.

Motion to come out of non-public session and to adjourn.

Motion by: K. Dickinson

Seconded by: R. Jurtewicz

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 pm.

James Battis, Chairman