

# TILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 17, 2017

## MINUTES

Members present: Chuck Mitchell, chair; Bob Hardy; Helen Hanks; Jim Cropsey; Paul Rushlow; Jon Scanlon; Ben Wadleigh; and Kathi Mitchell

Guests: Tim Bernier; John Green; Donna Keeley; Kurt Nelson; Tracy Tarr; Lindsey White

**Meeting was called to order by the chair at 7:00 p.m.**

**1. 637 West Main Street project:** Tim Bernier presented information about the proposed site for storage units which will impact 100 square feet of wetlands and will disturb 119,000 square feet including the creation of two retention ponds. The storage units will be built on concrete slabs, and it is expected that drainage will be an issue. They plan to use a forebay sediment collection basin and a second retention basin to assist in recharging the groundwater table. A question was asked about setbacks and protecting wetlands from people driving too close. Tim said they will use bituminous curbing. There were questions about snow storage which appears to be located very close to the existing wetland area. Tim said that there will always be a person on site to handle any issues that may arise. There was a concern about what is to prevent a plow driver from simply dumping snow into the wetland. Additional questions were asked whether there is enough room designated for snow storage. Tim mentioned that the area designated for snow storage was a depression (hole) and when that was full, that they would have to haul snow off-site. A commissioner asked about using the south side of the property, but Tim said the slope was too steep. Tim spoke about placing signs and using fencing to discourage plowing snow into the wetland. The commissioners felt that Tim might need to consider snow from the roofs in determining total runoff or collection. It was agreed it was going to be a tough site to plow. Tim reiterated that the owner has good intentions and wants to do what is best.

Helen made a motion to recommend the project to the Planning Board with the noted concerns about snow removal and storage which will need to be addressed. Ben seconded the motion, and it was approved.

**2. Eversource L176 Transmission Line Rebuild Project:** Ms. White explained that the plan is to replace 48 poles in Tilton across 4.5 miles in order to help meet current and future electricity demands. All of the poles are located in the current Right-of-Way; 6 are in wetlands. Ms White stressed that they are not increasing the Right-of-Way or adding lines. There was discussion about the data switch #3216 on Calef Hill Road which will have a permanent 30 by 50 foot gravel access pad and a 12 foot access road located in a wetland area. There was a question about why this particular location was chosen, and it was stated that slope and ledge issues in nearby sites led to the decision. The Eversource representatives stated that all temporary impacts will be restored. They will employ qualified personnel, use erosion controls, and follow best Management Practices. Research indicates there are no rare plants in the area. They have been in contact with NH Fish and Game in regard to endangered species. Any turtles and snakes in jeopardy will be carefully removed to a safer location. Several concerns about local ospreys were presented by the commissioners; in particular, the J Jill Osprey Track Project which is funded by Eversource. The chair

brought up TCC concerns that have been discussed at previous meetings regarding preliminary work done at the Wadleigh Farm on School Street. John Green and others have since met with ben and discussed the issues. Geotechnical borings were needed so Eversource sent notices to abutters and to the town. The commissioners reminded the Eversource team that there are, in fact, bald eagles located on and around Silver Lake. The commissioners also noted that the symbols for primary and secondary access on page 6 of the plans look pretty much the same; it was agreed that that would be modified. There was another question about the location of the Winnepesaukee River on some of the maps and that was attributed to GRANITE. Pole 68 is located in a well field that the water district may be interested in acquiring. Timber matting will be used.

1. There will be **no** refilling of fuel in the wetlands or on the matting.
2. Vehicles will not park on the matting.
3. When the mats are removed, Eversource will regrade, reseed, and mulch.

NH DES requires that Eversource develop a post construction report after sixty days and again one year later. The members discussed various erosion control options. Mitigation is going to be required for this project with a payment to the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund.

### 3. Old Business:

1. **The Checklist for Presenting projects to the TCC:** Commissioners request that copies be sent to the Selectboard, the Planning Board, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
2. **The Report of Concern:** The chair will finalize and prepare copies for distribution.
3. **Salmon Run:** Jon's planted daylilies are a wonderful addition. There was a discussion about when is the best time to mow the property. It was decided to wait until August. Turtle nesting was discussed. Paul suggested purchasing appropriate sand/soil in the spring. Helen made a motion to do so, Kathi seconded the motion, and all approved.
4. **School Street property:** The deed easement language was reviewed. It should be a warrant article for the 2018 Town meeting. Bob is opposed to the language regarding no hunting and reminded everyone that the site must be posted. Helen will write the warrant article.

### 4. New Business:

There was a discussion about possible sites for kayak entry along the Winnepesaukee River and the cutting of brush along the banks. Jon noted that NH DOT seems to have placed rocks in the river near the Exit 20 bridge construction site. The TCC should keep monitoring this situation.

5. **Correspondence:** NH DES Shoreland Impact permit 2017-01764 Arnold W. Piquette to construct a detached garage and dripline infiltration trenches.

6. Helen made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 pm; Jon seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Mitchell, Secretary