

MEETING
Tilton Conservation Commission
Tilton Town Hall
February 19, 2024
MINUTES

Present: Chuck Mitchell, Jim Cropsey, Bob Hardy, Ken Norton, Paul Rushlow, Jon Scanlon,
Ben Wadleigh, and Kathi Mitchell

Guests: Connor Madison, Ashley Friend, Justin Sherman, Douglas Pimentel, and Stephanie Winter

The meeting of the Tilton Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Connor Madison of GZA** for Eversource – Eversource will apply for a standard dredge and fill for all towns impacted by the J125 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project from Franklin through Tilton. One hundred forty (140) laminate wood poles will be replaced with steel structures. Forty-eight (48) poles are located in Tilton. The new poles will be located either in front of or behind the current poles. There will be a fifty (50) foot restoration buffer. They will use clean timber-matting and silt fencing. Commissioners mentioned a concern about accidentally transferring invasive species when the mattings are moved to a new section. There will be no concrete foundations. Justin Sherman has delineated the wetlands and vernal pools which will be impacted. Other agencies which will be contacted and involved are Alteration of Terrain and Shoreland. The upland impacts will have a sixteen (16) foot gravel line. The project is expected to begin in the fall of 2024 and conclude by late winter in 2025. Right-of-way access points will be gated, and Eversource will work with owners to assure that property is protected from people trying to use these rights-of-way. There will be temporary wetland impacts of 133,000 square feet with a permanent impact of 200 square feet. The TCC thanked Eversource for their presentation and maps.
2. **549 West Main Street Farmland Real Estate LLC** – Stephanie Winter attended the meeting, representing Kevin Hutchinson. Ms. Winter explained that the owner is concerned about the condition of the property and has worked to have the motor home removed from the site. She indicated that she has been in touch with NH DES who said that they would not require a detention pond or oil-water separator. The chair explained that the planning board and the town, not DES, will determine what conditions are needed. Currently, the 2004 site plan, which is still in effect, stated that approval depended on having a detention pond and oil water separators. The applicant needs to abide by the 2004 plan or submit a new site plan. There is a requirement for a twenty-foot buffer from adjacent properties as well as from nearby wetlands. Cars should be parked at least twenty feet from the western edge of the property and should be located on pavement. Information was provided by the commission that the current deed is missing some information relative to the eastern boundary of the site.

The following five comments will be sent to the Tilton Planning Board:

1. The Commission feels that a detention pond/drainage swale should be constructed, as was previously approved for the site plan.

Page 2 Tilton Conservation Commission minutes February 19, 2024

2. An oil/water separator needs to be installed to handle all run-off from areas where vehicles will be parked, as was previously approved for the site plan.
 3. The Commission believes that all vehicles parked outside should be parked outside of the twenty (20) foot buffer and should be located on pavement.
 4. A berm should be constructed near the road (West Main Street) to direct runoff away from the abutting property and into the detention pond/drainage swale.
 5. Boundary pins and wetlands need to be delineated in order to determine where the buffers are located.
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3. **January Minutes** – Bob made a motion which was seconded by Jim to accept the January minutes as presented. The minutes were approved.
 4. **Old Business** –
 - a) **Salmon Run** – The new sign was installed by Public Works and looks excellent. Spring maintenance for the property continues to be a concern. The secretary will contact the appropriate official at the State Prison for possible assistance. The commission would like to clear some of the brush along the river. Jim will plant wildflower seeds in March. Chuck will contact Shane Dow at Public Works to review their plans for mowing.
 - b) **WRTA** – Ken was contacted by the town about the Trail Committee. Chuck is still the chair, even though the group has not had to meet. The purpose and existence were explained and reviewed. Both WRTA and the TCC will need to update the kiosk at Salmon Run. WRTA has a QR code that shows how to connect to the next section of the trail. Directions, details, and information about downtown should be included. Members recalled that there used to be a Historic Walking Trail brochure. Several members will try to locate a copy and see if it can be re-introduced to town.
 - c) **Trash at Nucar** – There is no update. The health officer continues to monitor this situation.
 - d) **Taking Action for Wildlife** – There is a series of webinars sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension, NH Fish & Game, and the NHACC. Several members attended the first session which provided a great deal of valuable information and resources about land use and conservation. The secretary will re-send information about the webinar to the group.
 5. **New Business** –
 - a) **DIRT** – Several members attended a meeting at Highlands Mountain related to trails, recreation, and economic development. Ken spoke about trails that might connect to Buffalo Park. Wildlife corridors are also a topic to be considered.
 - b) **FEMA FIRM** – The revised flood maps were reviewed at length. The TCC needs to know who in the community is responsible for representing the town and responding to FEMA. The maps do not show the flood area below Lowe’s that was such a problem several years ago. There are questions about the status of the Tilton Island in the flood plain. There is also a question about the Hunt Brook being listed as being “superceded” because there is “insufficient information to make a determination.” The secretary was asked to contact Scott Olson of the US Geological Survey located in Pembroke for clarification.

Page 3 Tilton Conservation Commission minutes February 19, 2024

6. Correspondence – There was none.

7. Other – Concern was expressed that no one from the State has been in touch with the Town recently about the status of the failing guardrail. They originally said they were waiting for the FEMA maps. The next meeting of the TCC is scheduled for the same time as the Fire District meeting. It was decided that the commission will meet on March 18 at 5:30 pm so that members will be able to attend both meetings.

Jim made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Jon at 9:35 p.m. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Kathi Mitchell