

**MEETING**  
**Tilton Conservation Commission**  
**Tilton Town Hall**  
**May 20, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

Present: Chuck Mitchell, Jim Cropsey, Helen Hanks, Bob Hardy, Paul Rushlow, Jon Scanlon,  
and Kathi Mitchell

Guests: Patricia Consentino, Jane Alden, Justin Sherman, Ashley Friend, Mark Nash, Kyle Minery

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

**1. Eversource J 125 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project:**

- a) There will be temporary impacts of 300,000 square feet and a permanent impact of 170 square feet. The wooden laminate poles will be replaced with 57 weathered steel poles which will either be the same height or 5-15 feet higher. The new poles will be located in front of/behind current poles.  
The project is slated to begin in the Fall of 2024
- b) Nine poles are located in wetlands. The plan is to reduce or minimize any wetland impacts. There will be minimal soil compaction in the wetlands. Any soil disturbances will be addressed. Poles that are being replaced will be cut off. Commissioners had a question about removing poles that are located in the wetland that might degrade and negatively impact the area. Ms. Friend said she would check on this concern.
- c) Timbermatting will be left in place until the end of the project, but no longer than one season.
- d) GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. will be onsite to monitor activities and make sure that all BMPs are followed.
- e) Silt fencing will be employed until the end of the project and will be removed once 85% vegetative growth is present.
- f) While the consultants suggested that there were no endangered species in the Tilton area, commissioners reminded them that Bald Eagles have been seen in the Silver Lake area and near the old Pike facility.
- g) There was a question about lighting for airplane traffic on the poles and the possible negative impact on wildlife corridors and migrating birds in the area. The commission requested data about which poles will be required by the FAA to have lighting and what type might be used. The 16' gravel roads will be left in place for any future necessary maintenance and emergencies.
- h) The team will make sure to avoid accidentally transferring any invasive species when matting is moved to new sections.
- i) Right-of-way access points may be gated on an "as necessary" basis and Eversource will work with the underlying landowner for requests and permissions.
- j) There were several questions about the impact to the right-of-way areas. Some places outside the ROW could be impacted.

- 2. Kyle Minery, 35 Range Road:** Mr. Minery proposes to subdivide his property to add 3 more homes on the land in addition to the current residence which he is renovating. He owns 39.4 acres which are in current use. There will be a shared driveway for two of the new homes. The commission reiterated that there is a 125' setback from the wetlands for septic systems. Mr. Minery has been in contact with the Tilton Northfield Fire District that will require that the range road be twenty-feet wide for

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emergency vehicles. There is a 15-inch culvert as well as a “man-made” culvert diverting runoff. There was some discussion about wetlands, runoff, and ditching. Concern was expressed that placement of utilities in the wetlands should be avoided. The minimum lot size in the Rural Agriculture zoning area is three acres. Snow removal and road maintenance will be the responsibility of the home owners. This could lead to problems if each home owner (and each subsequent home owner) is not made aware of the requirements to avoid dumping snow in wetlands or impacting them in any manner if there are washouts. Commissioners spoke about how more water runoff would occur as trees are cut for the development and Calef Hill Road already has problems with water runoff and poor drainage control. It was questioned if the current culverts were sufficient to handle the increased runoff.

**3. Minutes from April:** Jim made a **motion** to accept the minutes as presented. Bob seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

**4. Old Business:**

**a) Salmon Run** – It is time to update the materials in the kiosk at Salmon Run. Suggestions included old pictures, a map of Buffalo Park, and better directions to bring visitors through town to the Northfield section of the trail. It was also suggested that there be information about species and flowers of interest (i.e. the giant oak) that may be found on the trail. Members recall that there was a discussion about painting footprints on the sidewalks for visitors to follow. The discussion will continue and we will talk with people at town hall.

Bob has access to full-size lupines to add to the collection at Salmon Run. Helen made a **motion**, seconded by Jon, to buy ten lupines to plant along the fence with a stake so they won't be weed-whacked by mistake. The motion was approved.

**b) WRTA** – No update at this time.

**c) Taking Action for Wildlife** – There has been no word about the application.

**5. New Business:** There was no new business.

**6. Correspondence** –

**a)** Amended Shoreland Permit - NH DES 2021-03568 for 46 Hill Road  
50 Appaloosa Circle Realty Trust Tax Map U01 Lot 32A

**b)** Electric charging station at 75 Laconia Road

**7. Other** –

**a)** Jim reports that the wood duck boxes have been placed in various appropriate sites in town as part of the grant he received from Cabelas and Bassro Shops.

**b)** Both the Parks Commission and the TCC will be involved with filling the wooden planter boxes at the river and near Timetable Mabel. The DPW will take care of watering this summer.

**c)** Members discussed matters of interest and concern related to the town.

Helen made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Paul at 8:35 p.m. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Kathi Mitchell