

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MAY 19, 2021

MINUTES

Present: Bill Llewelyn, Chair; Mike Barry, Charlie Blanker, Robin Conley

Guests Re: Solar Arrays: Jackie Firsty, Rich Riccio, Jood Alshirawi, Tom Reidy, Beth Greenblatt, Bill Lattrell, Dave Gordon, Gene L'Etoile, Nate L'Etoile, Steve Serendysky, Tammy Pelletier, Tony Stavely, Deb Giard, Melissa Gamache, Desiree Robertson, Ted Bakas, Iain Ward

Re: NE Paving: Juli Simmons, E Weldon

Re: Rail Roads: Keith Morris

Re: Epsilon/Eversource: Rhianna Sommers, Dave Askew

Others: Mike Zimmer, Mike Marsch, Tom McDonald, Michael Zhe

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:03 PM.

First order of business was the continuation of the solar arrays on Pine Meadow Road. Bill spoke of the site visit on April 5, 2021. Present were most ConCom members, Bill Lattrell, Dave Gordon, Jackie Firsty, and Gene L'Etoile.

Hearing was continued on **Solar Array A**. Mr. Lattrell stated there are no issues from a wetlands perspective. Lines were delineated. No construction is proposed within 100' of an intermittent stream. Bill LI inquired about the roadway, but it also is not within 100' of buffer zone. Charlie asked if plans had been approved by the Planning Board. Rich said the Planning Board was waiting for determinations by ConCom. Motion made and 2nded (Charlie/Mike) to close hearing. Approved by Charlie, Mike, Robin /Bill abstained. Motion made and 2nded (Charlie/Mike) that a standard order of conditions be issued. Approved by Charlie, Mike, Robin /Bill abstained. Robin to submit necessary follow up paperwork.

Hearing was continued on **Solar Array B**. Mr. Lattrell stated that everyone walked the land of Solar Array B at the site visit. He was initially concerned that some units were proposed within 200' of a riverfront (Pine Meadow Brook), that information was lacking regarding a flood zone, and that delineations needed to be properly flagged. Dave Gordon has flagged all needed delineations, and Blue Wave Solar pulled all proposed units out of buffer zones. Regarding lands subject to flooding, the displacement of soil in flood zone was less than a cubic yard, considering it inconsequential and recommended ConCom consider no mitigation. Rich sent new plans to ConCom. Motion made and 2nded (Charlie/Mike) to close hearing. Approved by Charlie, Mike, Robin /Bill abstained. Motion made and 2nded (Mike/Charlie) that an order of conditions be made with the plan modifications, removing all solar panels from the riverfront area and that less than one cubic yard of soil is impacted in the flood zone. Motion approved by Charlie, Mike, Robin /Bill abstained. Robin to submit follow up paperwork.

Hearing was continued on **Solar Array C**. It has been determined that the stream bed near Solar Array C is not perennial, and there is nothing within the jurisdiction of ConCom. A NOI does not need to be filed when there is nothing within the jurisdiction. There was much discussion as how to go

forward, one option being that Blue Wave can withdraw their NOI. Motion made and 2nded (Charlie/Mike) to close hearing. Motion approved by Charlie, Mike, Robin /Bill abstained. Motion made (Charlie/Mike) that Northfield ConCom will not issue an order of conditions for Solar Array C because it is not within ConCom's jurisdiction, and a letter will be sent to the applicants stating this fact. Motion approved by Charlie, Mike, Robin /Bill abstained.

Hearing was continued on **Northeast Paving's NOI**. Charlie reported that we can issue an extension even though the deadline was exceeded because of regulations that went into effect with Covid. Juli said necessary forms have been filed. Motion made and 2nded (Charlie/Robin) that ConCom issue an extension for another three years. Juli reported the boundaries are permanently marked and no changes have been made to the wetland. Motion carried. Charlie will submit necessary follow up paperwork.

Next topic was the **PanAm Railroad and New England Central Railroad RDA** for herbicide spraying along their right of ways. Keith Morris represented both railroad companies. He reported that the vegetation plans are good for 5 years, and wetland areas are not sprayed as marked by colored RR ties. Mr. Morris said he rides with the applicator with maps as required by law. Motion made and 2nded (Charlie/Mike) that ConCom make a positive determination of Section 2A for the No Spray Zones for PanAm Railway. Motion carried. Motion made and 2nded (Charlie/Mike) that ConCom make a positive determination of Section 2A for the No Spray Zones for New England Central Railway. Motion carried. Mike to follow up with necessary paperwork.

Next topic was **Eversource/Epsilon RDA for a structure replacement project**. Rhianna Sommers informed ConCom that old wooden structures along Line 312 need to be replaced and they propose constructing one gravel work pad within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and bank of an intermittent stream in Northfield. Dave Askew explained how temporary mats with a geotextile padding will be utilized during construction for protection of the buffer zones. Eversource is seeking a negative determination finding that the work described in the RDA will not alter an area subject to protection. Many questions were asked and much discussion ensued. Motion made and 2nded (Mike/Robin) that ConCom file a negative determination that work will occur in a buffer zone but will not impact the resource. Mike, Robin and Bill in favor/ Charlie opposed. Motion carried. Bill to submit necessary follow up paperwork.

A **Letter of Enforcement for property on Lyman Road** was presented to the landowner, Devon Szoc, who is very willing to comply. Bill recommends a blade bucket be used to remove debris from the wetlands area. Motion made and 2nded (Charlie/Mike) that we approve plans to restore the wetlands. Mike suggested we be contacted prior to work being done so that we can be on site during restoration. Motion carried. A copy of the enforcement letter will be sent to DEP.

A NOI has not yet been filed in response to the **enforcement letter for property on 4-Mile Brook Road**. Mike reported fallen trees may be the "dam" a neighbor was concerned about, and it was road run-off, not slope erosion, the neighbor was concerned about. Neighbor was informed. Site visit with consultant has not yet happened. Motion made and 2nded (Mike/Charlie) that a 200' delineation from the brook needs to occur and a plan drawn for revegetation of cut areas. Motion carried.

Minutes of May 5, 2021 meeting were accepted with one minor change.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wed., June 16, 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Minutes accepted with minor changes 6/16/21.