

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, December 13, 2022**

Larry Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:05PM

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: *Larry Spencer, Bill Nesheim, April Sargent, Anne Packard, Ben Amsden*

Not Present: *Shelagh Connelly and Woodie Laverack, Ex Officio*

Also Present: Lucinda Hannus, Town Land Use Assistant, Eversource and VHB representatives
(see sign in sheet)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 8, 2022

“Motion to approve the minutes as submitted “– Bill Nesheim

Second – April Sargent

Approved 5- Yes 0- No

L. Spencer moved up the Eversource application on the agenda to be discussed prior to other business.

NEW ITEMS: Eversource Z180 Electric Transmission Line Rebuild Steep Slopes Application.

Representatives of Eversource and the engineering firm VHB were present to outline the project and answer questions from the board.

K. Nelson, Eversource stated that this project was similar in scope to the recent E115 line replacement and they were proposing work on two (2) poles in Holderness along with an access road at the Huckins Hill Substation.

Mark Verostick, VHB discussed the particulars of this project, that the work in Holderness encompassed about two (2) acres of disturbance for gravel access roads and work pads. They are proposing a wetland crossing in which they will install temporary timber matting. There is approximately 1200 feet of access driveway that needs to be constructed.

L. Spencer indicated that there were extensive wetlands on the northern boundary where the stream separates into multiple streams and asked how they would handle limiting disturbance.

K. Nelson, Eversource responded that there would be some timber bridges built along with the matting and that the final means and methods would be left to onsite decisions by the contractor depending upon the type of wetlands and the existing drainage flow patterns.

Roy Sheehan Eversource indicated that the schedule for construction and removal of the matting for the E115 project is currently scheduled for after March of 2023 and that they would be leaving the gravel access roads in place if acceptable to property owners.

B. Amsden inquired as to whether the matting timbers were treated in anyway.

B. Newell responded no, they are not, they take a beating from this construction and use.

L. Spencer inquired as to restoration of the embankments disturbed on the E115 project.

Eversource responded that they still had additional work to complete and that disturbed slopes would be addressed.

B. Amsden inquired as to the process for vetting contractors on these kinds of projects.

Eversource responded that they have a bid process, the contractor must agree to weekly, daily oversight, full time monitoring especially environmental compliance., typically weekly inspections along with criteria for inspections within 24 hours of a rain event greater than ¼". They must acquire an EPA General Permit and must provide at a minimum weekly reports as to compliance. There are four major firms that are qualified to do this electrical line work. There are 8 or so civil contractors that typically bid on these projects and only 6 or so outage contractors. These projects are done under live line conditions.

B. Amsden asked to what happens to the old poles?

K. Nelson responded that as they are treated material and fumigated during use, they are manifested and generally disposed of as hazardous waste. Mr. Nelson indicated that this is a major infrastructure improvement being undertaken by Eversource for these two lines.

The commission members agreed that they would indicate to the select board that the plans looked good as presented, that inspections continue as the project moves forward and that any actionable items are addressed.

MAIL CHECK: Mr. Spencer reviewed the mail, wetland permits, shoreland permits and other correspondence received with those present. Confirmed from the members that there were no nominations for the NHTOA award.

OLD ITEMS:

1. Monitoring – B. Amsden stated that they had not had a chance to do this year's monitoring.
2. Trails – B. Nesheim stated the trails looked good generally that a crew at Pilote had removed a fallen tree and that the town forest needed to be weed wacked on the eastern side. There appears to be a lot of use of the trails and property.

3. LWCF owner still on board to donate property to be used as match and that CC will move forward with acquisition grant. State is onboard with plan to do so.
4. No change to status of Livermore project
5. E115 photos of construction emailed to members by L. Spencer

NEW ITEMS:

1. Z180 Steep Slope see above.
2. Certificate status of town tree farms, plans were sent and are all set. Need to repost signs.
3. 2003 Forest Management Plan need to update plan to identify boundary of the DPW property.
4. Extension Forester would like to set a date to lead a hike. Members discussed doing it in the spring, lead time for PR and advertising.
5. The Conservation Matters article should appear in this week's Plymouth Record.
6. L. Spencer inquired if PFA testing had been completed at the town property. L. Hannus responded she would inquire of the TA as to the status and results.
7. Winter schedule

L. Spencer indicated the annual town report was due, that he had a draft written and was working with the land use assistant to finalize. It would include that the DPW property had been re-surveyed and would be added to the plan. Corrections to the draft will be made and sent out to the members for their review and comments.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Lucinda M. Hannus
Land Use Assistant