

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held June 25, 2019**

Meeting was held in Town Hall. Commissioners present: Erik Burcroff, John Burns, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judy Williams (chair)
Also present: Simon A. Hildt, Eversource Energy; Mary Brittain, GZA GeoEnvironmental

Call to Order, Judy Williams, 7:02 P.M.

Jack moved, John seconded that the minutes of 5-29-19 be accepted as presented. Unanimous.

Public Meeting, RDA, Eversource Line 312 Structure Replacement Project

A Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) was submitted by GZA GeoEnvironmental for Applicant Eversource Energy. Project involves replacement of 28 existing transmission structures along the Eversource Line 312 right-of-way, including 11 structures within Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and/or Inland Bank. Work includes construction of access roads and gravel work pads. This morning, 6-25-19, Jack, John and Judy made a site visit to the proposed work area and reviewed stream stats and other materials presented by Simon.

Erik asked if Eversource had been in touch with tribes concerning the project. Mary said there was no direct consultation with tribes. She described the cultural review done by a consultant and the pedestrian review conducted in any areas of moderate or high sensitivity. Matting is used to avoid impact in such areas.

Simon said permanent alteration in jurisdictional areas would be avoided with Best Management Practices (BMPs). He said that herbicide application as part of Eversource vegetation management was not part of this project.

Mary provided a Plainfield stream inventory done as part of the Consultant review process based on StreamStats, indicating that all the streams crossing the ROW are Intermittant.

The Commission requested that written reports on the project be provided at least monthly.

Simon said written documentation with photos would be provided.

Judy read the positive and negative Determination language. John moved, Judy seconded that the Commission issue a Negative Determination under #3: The work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone as defined in the Regulations, but will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, the work does not require filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the following conditions: Written reports, at least monthly, on work progress; permission for the ConCom to visit the work area upon request; all work to be done according to BMPs. Vote: unanimous in favor. All Commissioners signed the Determination.

Simon demonstrated how to access and use StreamStats and the amazing graphics available on his tablet. He left a CD of Eversource BMPs for Commission review.

Simon and Mary left the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

Plainfield Solar Site Visit, Additional Battery Storage, 29 Union St.

Jack, Erik, and Judy made a site visit to the Nexamp solar facility at 29 Union St, where very large batteries will be housed in storage sheds. Judy reported that she received an email from a Conservation Commission agent for Hadley. The agent warned that their experience indicated that the Fire Chief and Building inspector should be called in when large battery storage is proposed because of the hazardous materials involved and potential fire danger.

Forest Cutting Plan, South Central

Erik reported on the FCP for the Allen Page cutting project on South Central. New cutting is planned. The FCP is not yet signed by Service Forester Allison Wright. Judy read an email from Allen Page to Mark Stinson in which Allen Page says that he forgot to request an extension on his expired plan.

As some members will be away, there will be no July meeting unless a need arises.

Adjourned, 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle