

*Approved as amended 6/24/20*

**Plainfield Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting Held May 28, 2020**

Pursuant to Governor Baker's order in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and imposing limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting was held by remote participation with steps taken to enable the public to access the proceedings. This Google Meet was initiated by Jack Nelson.

Members present: Erik Burcroff, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judith Williams (chair).

Also present: Joe Rogers, representing GZA GeoEnvironmental; Simon Hildt, representing Eversource; Peg Keller, abutter to the property which is the subject of the NOI to be reviewed.

**Call to Order**, Judith Williams, 6:32 p.m.

**Minutes** of 4-29-20 were approved as presented.

**Public Hearing to Review a Notice of Intent Submitted by Joseph Rogers of GZA GeoEnvironmental for an Eversource Project.**

The work area, on an Eversource transmission line at #36 235, is west of Mill Brook between Summit and 116, closer to West Hill Road. A structure will be replaced and a temporary gravel access road constructed. A site visit was made on 5-20-20 by Erik and Judy with Joe Rogers. John and Jack made a site visit on 5-22-20.

Joe Rogers described the project. The gravel access road will extend an existing access road downhill. A berm will be created then pushed back in place and the area graded and compacted to even it out. A swale will not be created. Natural vegetation east of the site, towards Mill Brook, will be left in place with minimal disturbance. At the request of Peg Keller Eversource representatives agreed that the entrance to the access road will be cleaned up at the conclusion of the project.

The structure to be replaced is one of six to be replaced in Plainfield and the only one subject to WPA review. Jack requested, and Joe Rogers supplied, square footage measurements within riverfront area that will be disturbed. Project as planned specifies removal of gravel when the project is completed. Erik recommended that we request that the gravel be left in place when we condition the project.

An issue regarding rare species habitat prevents closure of the hearing until a determination by MESA is made. The hearing was continued to the next ConCom meeting on 6-24-20 at 6:30 p.m. Joe Rogers, Simon Hildt and Peg Keller left the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

**Site Visit, 198 South Central**

Erik made a follow-up site visit on 5-12-20 to inspect straw wattles and excavation work being done. Project was the subject of an RDA and a conditioned Negative Determination made on 4-29-20. Erik notified owner Ben Gillette that everything looks good.

**New Business**

Jack described a conversation with Steve Bzomowski who lives on Crooked Pond and is concerned about the Eurasian milfoil that has invaded the pond. Mr. Bzomowski has found it difficult even to canoe through it. He doesn't know who owns the dam but has observed the water level rising and falling.

**The next meeting**, which will include a continuation of the public hearing on an NOI submitted by Joseph Rogers for an Eversource project, will be held 6-24-20 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held live or remotely as circumstances permit.

Alice moved, Erik seconded that we adjourn at 7:13 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle