

Town Clerk  
6/10/24

Warwick Conservation Commission

June 10, 2024 6:30 pm

Warwick Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Chris Duerring, Chair, Mary Williamson, Bob Paquette, Jim Abels, and Nancy Putnam

Commission Meeting started at 6:45 pm

Meeting Minutes for last meeting approved unanimously, with minor revisions.

National Grid Transmission Line Project: A1/B2 Asset Condition Refurbishment Project, Teresa Portante, BSC Group, Project Scope, 61 miles, NH/VT/MA

Originally constructed in 1909, to be replaced for larger capacity, increased resiliency, safety.

Schedule: Outreach ongoing, Field Assessments started in 2020, vegetation management, permitting, construction will be in phases along the line, starting in 2025 in VT / NH.

MEPA: finalizing the final EIR now. MESA filed. ACOE filed. 401 WQC expected this year. Preparing to file with CC.

In Warwick: 6.4 miles, difficult terrain. Parker Camp Road and Bliss Rd, 93 existing structures.

55 existing BVW and streams (multiple brooks). Descriptions of structures, existing and proposed. ROW cleared is ~ 80 ft. to be cleared approximately 10 ft. on each side of the structures. Access roads will need some clearing, 1 new access to be cleared in Warwick.

Mitigation: avoidance and minimization. No permanent wetland or stream crossings proposed.

Temporary construction matting. Riverfront Areas: temp. loss of vegetation, loaming and seeding. Wetland loss: 214 sf, mitigation to be provided.

Warwick Highway Commissioners - Athol Road Culvert, Matt Dorgan, Tracy Styles, and Kevin Alden

Discussion: Headwalls are failing, leaning towards the brook. They requested what they can do to fix it. It appears that the culvert may be intact, but the walls need to be replaced or fixed.

Culvert cleanouts?

Fire pond maintenance?

NOI Public Hearing: Peter Gerry, New Bridge Construction, Winchester Road

8:15 pm: Open public hearing, Chuck Carron, Engineering, representing Peter Gerry

Last logging was 30 years ago, used a temporary bridge. They have an approved FCP for tree harvesting.

Donnie Mathews: they contacted the fire department, they will give us a letter.

Chuck Carron: description of project. Sets back about 4 feet from top of Bank it will be a couple of feet higher than current banks. Area being disturbed for the bridge is small percentage of the Riverfront Area. Project is within the flood zone. Using pre-existing area that was disturbed for floodplain compensation. Proposing stump grindings and wood chips as erosion controls. Bridge will be a 36 ft. span. Proposing a forwarder for harvesting the trees.

NJP: About 40 years ago the lot was created. Is there an alternative access without crossing the brook? Requested clarification of how project complies with resource area performance standards.

Applicant expressed concerns about fire and gaining access to the opposite side of the perennial stream.

Bob: Expressed concerns with the creation of a permanent road crossing of this brook.

Applicant's Representative: Responded that this is a limited project.

Chris Duerring: Reading of the limited project requirements.

NP: Asked about the DEP comments.

Chris Duerring: Made a motion to continue hearing to the next Commission meeting requesting an alternatives analysis, that the centerline of the road and crossing be staked onsite within resource areas and Buffer Zones and staking of the compensatory storage area. The Conservation Commission would like to conduct a site visit, with prior notification to the representative, to review the wetland delineations and the previous items, prior to the next hearing. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Paquette, all approved.

A few minutes later, Peter Gerry returned and informed the Commission that he is withdrawing his Notice of Intent for the permanent bridge crossing.

Motion to adjourn by Chris Duerring, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy, all approved at 9:45 pm