

**Town of Chester
Conservation Commission
October 8, 2019
7:00 PM
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Chairman Victor Chouinard
Kristina Snyder
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
Ted Broadwater
Deb Munson
Aaron Hume

Absent:

Selectman Chuck Myette, Liaison
Rick Sibley, Alternate
Baron Richardson

Guests:

Lindsey White, GZA Environmental
Jenny Menendez, Eversource
Daniel Rukakoski, Tighe Bond
Kevin C. Scott, ZBA Vice-Chair

Call to Order:

Chairman Chouinard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Plan Approvals

a. Lindsey White/GZA Environmental for Eversource

373/391 Transmission Lines – Temporary Wetland Impact
To replace 15 poles S/W of Chester Street
2.5 miles N/SW of Lane Road ongoing 1-mile S of Chester Street

Ms. White presented the proposal on behalf of GZA Environmental for Eversource. Ms. White noted she is accompanied by Jenny Menendez from Eversource.

Ms. White noted she is seeking recommendation from the Conservation to go before the Planning Board on October 23rd. 15 poles will be replaced with a temporary wetland buffer impact. GZA will be onsite to ensure environmental compliance. The disturbed areas will be restored with seed/mulch. There will be a separate DES application.

42 Endangered species such as the black racer have been identified and the November
43 work schedule will pose the least impact.

44
45 Mr. Broadwater noted Eversource has come in multiple times for the same structure
46 replacements and commented that splitting up the project causes twice or greater the
47 impact. Ms. White explained the annual inspection process.

48
49 Mr. Broadwater noted the access roads being built and left by Eversource is contributing
50 to extensive use within the wetlands by motorized recreational users such as ATVs. He
51 witnessed a gator loaded with six people and a Subaru Forester on Sunday alone.
52 Eversource has made no effort to put up signs or block access and the lack of these is
53 an open invitation. Ms. White noted Community Relations is looking into that and some
54 of the property is not owned by Eversource. Mr. Broadwater disagreed and noted he
55 researched the ownership himself and found 80% of the impacted area is owned by
56 Eversource. Ms. Munson echoed the concerns she herself has witnessed as an abutting
57 homeowner to the projects on Haverhill Road. Police are escorting people out at
58 midnight with flat tires. Eversource needs to make a serious effort to block access
59 especially from large vehicles. Community Relations was emailed last Summer. Ms.
60 Snyder agreed and noted another facet of the enforcement piece is when a violation is
61 issued, Fish & Game is unable to prosecute because people fight the charges and
62 Eversource never shows up. Fish & Game needs them to be at these court
63 appearances. Fines for the first offense can be \$300 and higher for the second. The
64 Chester Police Department cannot pursue violators as they don't have enough off-road
65 vehicles to do that.

66
67 Mr. Broadwater offered that he was not in favor of recommending the project for
68 approval with Planning Board until these items were addressed. Ms. White noted off-
69 road vehicles find ways in when they want to. Eversource does not own the right-of-way
70 and only the landowner can post. Mr. Chouinard noted he spoke with landowners and
71 they don't appear to have any issue with granting permission. Ms. White noted
72 Elizabeth in Community Relations is on leave for the month and she will ask her back-up
73 to reach out for a discussion. Mr. Chouinard noted he would like to have community
74 relations come to a meeting. Ms. Munson agreed there have been enough listening and
75 needs to come with plans and ideas.

76
77 Mr. Chouinard was not in favor of withholding recommendation when maintenance
78 needs to be done and wondered if public relations would agree to be at Conservation's
79 next meeting.

80
81 Mr. Broadwater noted citizens have been complaining and nothing has been done.
82 There are no signs indicating there is a wetland here. Ms. Munson would like to see a
83 good faith effort with target dates.

84
85 Mr. Chouinard agreed it was an initial low cost first step for Eversource to post on their
86 owned land.

87

88 Mr. Scott noted the ZBA often puts conditions and Conservation could condition that
89 entrances and egresses be posted at the end of the work and/or at the close of the
90 project clearly marked Eversource land “no motorized vehicles.” Ms. Munson asked
91 about adding penalties to the signage.
92

93 Mr. Broadwater added Class VI roads, Chester Turnpike, 121, Clark Road, North of
94 Candia and both sides of Lane Road. If Eversource provides the signs the landowners
95 could give permission. Mr. Broadwater clarified to please let Community Relations know
96 that it is not just these tiny dots shown on the map that are impacting the wetlands with
97 these roads it is far greater than what is shown on the plans.
98

99 ***Mrs. Neff Ragsdale motioned to accept the project as proposed by Eversource***
100 ***with the condition that signage to be determined be posted at the end of the***
101 ***project. Ms. Munson seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.***
102

103 b. Daniel Rukakoski of Tighe Bond for Eversource
104

105 Line B, 172 Transmission Lines – Chester Street, Substation off Haverhill Road
106 W to Derry Town Line
107 Replace 6 structures
108 Wetlands crossing to access structures
109

110 Mr. Rukakoski presented the proposal on behalf of Tighe Bond for Eversource. Mr.
111 Rukakoski noted he is seeking Conservation Commission recommendation to go before
112 the Planning Board for CUP on November 6th and will provide a copy of DES filing. Six
113 structures which are wooden poles will be replaced with steel poles which include
114 crossarms, etc. There will be a pre-construction meeting concerning rare species
115 awareness prior to commencement of the project. The access road is well established
116 on the Right of Way.
117

118 Mr. Chouinard asked the percentage of structures that have been replaced. Mr.
119 Rukakoski said he did not know the percentage to date. Eversource has 750 miles of
120 infrastructure in NH.
121

122 Mr. Broadwater asked whether Eversource made attempts to acquire land from
123 homeowners where it was landlocked for access.
124

125 Mr. Chouinard proposed the same conditions of approval as the last hearing.
126

127 Mr. Hume noted there was access at Jack & Pomp. Ms. Munson noted there were old
128 broken mats left onsite with the previous project.
129

130 ***Mrs. Neff Ragsdale motioned to recommend the proposal of Eversource to***
131 ***Planning Board with the condition that signage to be determined will be posted at***
132 ***the end of this project. Ms. Munson seconded the motion, with all in favor, so***
133 ***moved.***
134

135 2. Strategic Land Protection Committee

136

137 a. Loranger property

138

139 Chair Chouinard noted the Loranger property closed on Thursday.

140

141 b. Pipit Estates

142

143 Chair Chouinard noted the bank hadn't signed off on the easement but expect to have
144 that tomorrow. Ms. Munson noted the private wells were not an issue.

145

146 c. Jackson parcels.

147

148 Mr. Broadwater noted one of the parcels has an old stone bridge which is a unique
149 feature. Mr. Hume noted it was washed out however.

150

151 3. Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2019

152

153 Ms. Munson noted the trail finder link was actually trailfinder.info.

154

155 Mr. Hume disagreed that he was ready to speak to Deb Doda about bringing the maps to legal.
156 Mr. Hume noted he was concerned about private property being on the maps without
157 discussions with owners and the assessor's website did not show the easements and each
158 easement has different uses. Mr. Broadwater questioned how to notify homeowners. Mr. Hume
159 noted without having certain areas on the maps it ruins the continuity. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale
160 indicated notifying homeowners would be the courteous thing to do. Mr. Broadwater and Mr.
161 Hume will have a work meeting to delineate the maps. Mrs. Doda is working on a letter to notify
162 homeowners this information will be on the maps.

163

164 Mr. Chouinard will circulate the edits to the minutes to Ms. Hoijer by email.

165

166 **Mr. Broadwater motioned to accept the September 10, 2019 minutes, as amended. Ms.**
167 **Munson seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.**

168

169 4. Public Comment

170

171 Kevin Scott of the Chester Zoning Board of Adjustment noted that the Board had approved a
172 variance for 82 Pulpit Rock Road which contained a proposed easement to Conservation on the
173 plan. Mr. Scott wanted to know the status of the negotiations. Chair Chouinard noted
174 Conservation was no longer in negotiations with the owners. Mr. Scott noted the plan has
175 changed since it was approved by the ZBA prior to going to Planning on the 23rd of this month.
176 Chair Chouinard explained the reasons for the negotiations dissolving were they wanted more
177 money and allowances for ATV use and no public access, so it is off the table.

178

179 5. Treasurer's Report – (Mrs. Neff Ragsdale)

180

181 Mrs. Neff Ragsdale reported:

182
183 CD Account \$700,646.40
184 Illig Property - 40,187.79
185 Interest + 679.27
186
187 Total \$661,137.88
188
189 Forestry \$ 40,933.16
190 Interest 40.00
191
192 Total \$ 40,973.16
193
194 Lincoln
195 Lane \$ 3,069.34
196 Interest 3.00
197 Total \$ 3,072.34
198
199 Emerson \$ 10,152.27
200 Interest 9.92
201 Total \$ 10,162.19

202
203 \$954 Operating Budget

204
205 \$60.00 spent

206
207 \$775.94 remaining

208
209 **Mr. Broadwater motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, as stated. Ms. Snyder**
210 **seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.**

211
212 6. Sub-Committee Reports

213
214 A. Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (Kristina)

215 Ms. Snyder noted the Fall Festival had a good turnout and Mr. Broadwater, Mr. Chouinard and
216 herself served as parking attendants. Event's insurance was required as an umbrella policy is
217 required in addition to the town's liability policy for events like this.

218 Mr. Broadwater noted the police presence was a major bonus.

219 Ryan's Sugar Shack renewed his lease and the Town will receive donations of product for their
220 events in lieu of the .49 cent per tap fee.

221 B. Agricultural Commission (Kathy)

222 Mrs. Neff Ragsdale noted sadly interest has dwindled with only three members including herself
223 at the previous meeting. Mrs. LeBlanc is making every effort to not have the Commission
224 dissolve.

225 C. Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission (Kathy, Kristina)

226 Beavers – Ms. Snyder reported no issues with the beavers.
227 Parking – the Road Agent finished the community center lot but there is a pile of
228 removed debris that needs to be relocated on site.
229
230 Septic Tanks – the tanks have been removed.
231 Pavilion – the location may have been a leach field at one time and may or may not
232 need to be relocated or suitable for the foundation, the soil samples will tell.
233
234 ADA Ramp – the ADA ramp at the Community Center is on hold.

235 Regulations

236 Grants

237 Easements, Monitoring & Stewardship

238 Chair Chouinard noted he would like to contact someone to get baseline monitoring on the new
239 parcels. There may be a fee for start-up.

240 The Board indicated they would like to do two of the easement monitorings themselves to get
241 Lincoln Lane squared away since they are holding money for the bridge and Webster Lane who
242 came in earlier this year about building access to a day barn. Ms. Munson noted advice could
243 be obtained from the Forest Society.

244 **PLAN REVIEWS**

245 **MISCELLANEOUS**

246 Presentations (Kristina)

247 Ms. Snyder noted the next presentation would be on Fishers and the date has changed to
248 December 8th from noon to three with the presentation beginning at 1 PM.

249 **Adjournment**

250 ***Mr. Broadwater motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Munson seconded the motion,***
251 ***with all in favor, so moved.***

252 The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

253 Respectfully submitted,

254

255 Nancy Hoijer,
256 Recording Secretary