Planning Board

February 11, 2021

7:30pm

Members present: Barry Hantman, Chip Current, Steve Woitkun

Members present via Zoom: Chris Smith, Charles Underhill, Richard Atkins, Jennifer Heywood

Others present via Zoom: Matt Flanders, Elizabeth Larocca, Jenney Menendez, Jared Meyer, Roy Fruit

Others present: Gail Turilli, Carsten Springer

Barry noted this meeting was being held in conjunction with emergency ordinances passed by the State, allowing committees to conduct meetings remotely and constituting a quorum.

Charles Underhill was designated as a voting member for the meeting per Barry. Meeting minutes of 01/28/2021 were reviewed, no amendments needed. Chip **made** and Richard 2nd a **motion to accept** the minutes as written. All in favor, **motion carries** with Jennifer and Steve abstaining.

**Conditional Use Permit R193 Transmission Line Map and Lot #’s 1-23 & 1-24**

This is a continuation from the Planning Board meeting of 1/28/2021. Eversource met with the Conservation Commission on 2/4/2021 and their recommendations are as follows:

1. That work be conducted starting the end of February. This is supported by two previous C.U. Permits issued by the Danville Planning Board for very extensive work in the same location in 2013 and 2015, when work was conducted in the summer an fall, in conjunction with info presented by Eversource wildlife specialists on 2/4/2021.\*
2. In addition to survey work, setting of permanent monumentation, Wetlands delineation, and Biodiversity data collected on Eversource property, the company has confirmed by previous applications and additionally by statements to the Planning Board on 1/28/2021, that they are doing the same on all private and town property related to the powerline easement. The Conservation Commission strongly recommends that the Planning Board requires all such data be given to the actual owners of the property immediately upon landowner request. This data may exclude highly specific locations of towers.
3. Due to the repetitive nature of work within the same areas of the power line easement throughout the town, the Conservation Commission recommends that a condition of the use permit is a rolling forecast submitted to the town with a lead time of at least three years of anticipated future work. This is to support town planning and environmental considerations.

\*The earlier the work begins, the sooner it may be able to be accomplished relative to the planned outage. Eversource did not clarify that they have a “back up plan” in the event of delays. Starting the installation of mats when the ground may still be frozen is a more prudent schedule than starting the matting in April.

Alternatively, in 2013 and 2015, significant work in this section of powerlines was done starting in Summer and ending in November/December. The Planning Board could choose to require that again, and it would certainly be better from an environmental standpoint.

Carsten stated this is a hard outage time frame and would prefer that the work start earlier.

Barry mentioned that since the last meeting a document from Eversource was received via email,

listing the 2021 overview of Transmission projects in Danville. There is transmission/vegetation management work mentioned on the same line. Barry questioned if this work will be done in conjunction with this project.

Jared, Transmission Arborist at Eversource, explained that the work occurs when the structures are done. Covers the entire ROW. Will work with management to complete all work in the town of Danville first, but may take longer. Transmission /Vegetation work does not require a Conditional Use Permit. A State permit is in place.

Jennie, Environmental Specialist, stated that relative to Condition #1 from Conservation, Eversource has employed a certified wildlife biologist through Normandeau Associates. They have also had discussions with NH Fish and Game and the opinion from said discussions was that the end of March/beginning of April for matting was ok to do as it is prior to turtle nesting time. Barry researched that topic and found through the NH Fish and Game that the nesting period is from May to mid June.

Richard also researched turtle nesting period and found that turtles will start nesting when the temperature at night becomes 50 – 60 degrees. Matting will take place prior to that and he feels that the plan is sound.

Jennie mentioned that the work could potentially start earlier. Bids are awarded per management and then a purchase order needs to be made. The outage dates will stay the same, April 15 – May 24 and the work would be completed in the same time frame. Relative to condition #2, Eversource has no problem with sharing the data with landowners if requested but, would prefer a one on one conversation. They pay for the data and it is for private use for planning projects. Relative to Condition #3, 3 years is not feasible. Eversource was made aware of this project last July.

Barry stated we are looking for a forecast to try and get things done in a more precise manner. Carsten mentioned if they plan on crossing town/private properties, there may be a conflict with town activities without knowing ahead of time.

Jared stated that the outage dates will be from April 26 to May 15. There are 2 scopes for vegetation management, the R193 and the J147 which will be done later in the summer during the restoration phase.

Elizabeth emphasized that Matt works with the Transmission Projects Team, works at a 3- state level, and pulled this project together. Aerial inspections are done annually, and the Planning Board will be notified ASAP in regards to group projects.

Charles commented that coordinating schedules is challenging for Eversource as the best time to do the work for the town is the worst time for them, which is the summer loading period. Lowest load periods are in the Spring and Fall and potentially most disruptive.

Chip stated the outage is from the end of April to Mid-May, work will be done on the poles during that time. A month prior to that the matting will go down, and taken out afterwards. He questioned how long to replace the 6 poles. Jennie stated that 3 poles a week in certain conditions. Best case scenario is 2 weeks for all pole replacement work.

Chip asked if the work could be done when the turtle season is over and pick up the mats in June.

Jennie explained that the mats go down just before the outage and are picked up after restoration. The contractors are being trained to look for the turtles. Daily sweeps will be done. If they find turtles, they are to stop work, call Eversource, and move the turtles if possible. If unable to move the turtles, they are to contact Eversource and they will send someone out to move the turtles.

Carsten asked to clarify in reference to condition #2, concern for data collected for private use may be use for the wrong purpose. Jennie explained that the data collected is used for mapping projects and Eversource needs to know what the data is being used for before releasing it. Barry questioned if there would be an issue releasing the data to the town. Jennie stated they would prefer to speak one on one with the landowner upon request for the data prior to releasing it.

DES and Fish and Game do not get the data, it is private use for Eversource.

Chip asked if we could have and advertisement for the landowners who are part of the easement a contact person with whom they could have a discussion with about the data. Jennie stated that mailers do go out and will have contact numbers available for Elizabeth and Matt in regards to data requests.

Barry entertained a **motion** to grant Conditional Use Permit from 2/11/2021 to 10/2021 with 2 conditions:

1. Provide a point of contact for the landowner to obtain biodiversity or survey data associated with their property.
2. No placement or removal of mats between May 1 and June 22/No drilling of towers between May 16 and June 22.

Chuck asked if a weather dependent clause could be incorporated to adjust the schedule. Board is in agreement. Barry stated Eversource could come back for relief on these dates in the event of questionable weather conditions.

Chip **made** and Chris 2nd a **motion to grant** Conditional Use Permit Application with the above mentioned conditions. All in favor, **motion carries.** Conditional Use Permit granted to Eversource for the R193 Transmission Line on 2/11/2021.

**Stage Coach Estates:**

Barry stated the the Planning Board received a letter from James Lavelle requesting a 90 day extension on the Subdivision application. Chip **made** and Chris 2nd a **motion** to grant the extension until 4/22/2021. All in favor with Rick(abutter) and Steve abstaining, **motion carries.** Mr. Lavelle will be notified of the extension and that the Planning Board expects to see progress prior to that date.

Barry mentioned that updates to the Master Plan needs priority.

Chip **made** and Steve 2nd a **motion** to adjourn. All in favor, **motion carries.** Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM

**Agenda for next meeting:**

Correspondence

Respectfully,

Gail L Turilli