

Planning Board
January 28, 2021
7:30pm

Members present: Barry Hantman, Chip Current, Richard Atkins

Members present via Zoom: Chris Smith, Roger Whitehouse, Charles Underhill

Others present via Zoom: Matt Flanders, Elizabeth Oliver, Jenney Menendez, Bill McCloy, Elizabeth Larocca, Katie Burns

Others present: Gail Turilli, Carsten Springer, James Seaver

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.

Meeting minutes of 01/14/2021 were reviewed. Chip had one clarification on line 71 to add the word extension after 2nd conditional approval. Charles Underhill was designated as a voting member for the meeting per Barry. Roger **made** and Chip 2nd a **motion** to accept the minutes as amended. All in favor, **motion carries**.

Barry stated that the Town Deliberative Session has been changed to Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 10:00 AM and the Town Elections will be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 8:00 AM. The School Election has not been scheduled yet. The Board of Selectmen will meet on Monday, February 1, 2021 to discuss this. Both Planning Board positions that are up for election are 3 year terms.

Conditional Approval for Sapphire Woods was granted at the last meeting. Condition #4 is still outstanding as there is no final approval from the Town Engineer. Barry advised if the Planning Board does not hear back from the Stagecoach Estates Subdivision within the next few days, a letter will be sent out stating that the Planning Board will act on the application.

James Seaver – Appointed Road Agent:

Mr. Seaver comes before the Planning Board for a brief discussion as the new Road Agent in regards to expectations of the Planning Board. Barry stated there are a couple of items that the Planning Board and the Road Agent get involved with, Driveways and Driveway Permits being one of them. New Subdivisions will need a letter from the Road Agent stating the layout was looked at, list of issues if any, and that the permits make sense. Things to look at are drainage swales, culverts, easements, etc. If the drainage is in the road ROW, the town maintains it, if outside of the ROW it is up to the land owner to maintain. New roads require a 60ft ROW. Cul-de-sacs are now required to be in the shape of the number 9 per the Town Ordinance. Chip stated there is a specific ordinance in regards to mailboxes. Barry stated most Driveways for Subdivisions come before the Planning Board but in some cases there will be an existing Driveway that the land owner wants to change. Those situations will go directly to the Road Agent for permit. Key thing to look at would be wetlands. If wetlands are going to be affected,

will need to come before the Planning Board. Carsten pointed out that only a soil scientist can only determine what would be considered wetlands. James mentioned that nothing is specified on the permit in regards to size/width of a culvert if needed. Barry advised to contact the Town Engineer with any questions, but culverts are usually in the town's ROW. Chip stated as far as when to accept new roads as town roads, it will need to be brought before the Planning Board, Road Agent and the Board of Selectmen. Richard questioned if it is up to the Road Agent to determine if the new road is in a safe place and won't affect flow of traffic. Barry stated if the road may cause a hazard, will need to come before the Planning Board.

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

Elizabeth explained that there are 5 transmission lines in Danville that require maintenance. 3 lines going through the town forest north and south and 2 lines in the northwest part of Danville. 6 wooden structures will need to be replaced by steel poles along the R193 line on Sandown Road.

Chip confirmed that all abutters have been noticed and all application fees have been paid. Chip **made** and Richard 2nd a **motion to accept the application**. All in favor, **motion carries**. Application is accepted 1/28/2021.

Jennie Menendez, environmental specialist with Eversource stated she had Elizabeth Oliver and Bill McCloy from Normandeau Associates assist with delineating and marking the wetlands. 6 poles will be replaced located off of Sandown Road. Access to the utility poles will be from Sandown Road to the Kingston and Peaslee Tap for 5 of the poles. On the other side of the river will be using the Rockingham Rail Trail coming in from Sandown and matting out to the other structure. The plan set has changed and moved 150ft back from the Exeter River. Impact areas are where the towers are. Structures 298 and 299 will be matted due to wetlands.

Barry stated about 3 years ago work was done at the Peaslee Tap. Disturbance of wetlands seems to be more frequent than it should be. Jennie explained that yearly inspections are done with a rating system and poles with a rating of C & D need to be replaced. Most of the poles on the R193 line were placed in 1952 and originally had a 50 year life span, now are 70 years old. 3-5 years ago when work was done at the Peaslee Tap, less maintenance work was done and Eversource has since expanded the maintenance program. Barry would like to avoid yearly disturbance of wetlands. If poles are 50+ years old, they will need to be replaced regardless of the rating.

Carsten questioned if the poles are being replaced because of the need to raise the height per safety protocol. Jennie explained that the poles are being replaced because of the condition. There has been an increase in clearance standards, 5-10 ft higher, but in this case will be 15-20ft higher. Carsten feels this should have been addressed last summer with the other maintenance project.

Katie Burns explained that decisions are made by upper management. Elizabeth stated that Eversource needs to ensure funding for the project. There is no overlapping footprint to the other project, different transmission line and not sharing the same access points. Primary poles

to be replaced have a C or D rating. Access roads and wetland impacts are also taken into consideration. Annual/Bi-Annual inspections are done all lines.

Charles Underhill asked about the shape of the conductor and ROW clearing maintenance. Katie stated the conductor rating over the Kingston Tap is a re-conductor and no significant clearing needs to be done. Jennie explained the matting used will be 16ft wide x 4ft, will be laid down as travelling with a forward loader. It will be picked up one by one as backing out. There will also be a 100 x100 ft work pad placed at the 295 pole for more stability and will preserve the landscape. Civil access is due to start April 26 and end around May 15. The existing road will be used to reach the taps to 295 and once a week, Normandeau Associates will be checking the matting.

Carsten stated this is a sensitive time of year for this type of project. The summer moths have the largest loading constraints. The Planning Board would like to bring in the Conservation Commission into this discussion before granting the Conditional Use Permit and would like to see this bumped to the drier months of the year. Barry recommended shifting the project out 2-3 weeks if possible. Conservation would like to bring in a wildlife specialist to answer questions.

Barry recommended that Eversource meet with Conservation at the next meeting on 2/4/2021 and then come back to the Planning Board on 2/11/2021. Charles Underhill requested an internal coordination with vegetation management regarding what is required for getting into the ROW. Chris pointed out that there is a page on the plans addressing wildlife. Jennie explained that the fish and game requires flyers to hand out to the contractors as an aid to determine species and report sightings. These are used as a protective measure and to gather data. Richard questioned if there is any historical data regarding damage to wildlife in that area. Carsten stated about 6 years ago there was a report of 5-8 acres South into Danville and East into Fremont.

Zoom capability will be available for the Conservation Commission meeting on 2/4/2021 and will be forwarded to Eversource.

Barry **made** and Chip 2nd a **motion** to adjourn. All in favor, **motion carries**. Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

Agenda for next meeting:

1. Continuance of Conditional Use Permit Application for R193 Transmission Line

Respectfully,
Gail L Turilli

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