

Town of Newington, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, December 8, 2011

Call to Order: Co-Chairs, Justin Richardson and Jane Hislop called the December 8, 2011 meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

Present: Justin Richardson, Co-Chair; Jane Hislop, Co-Chair; Margaret Lamson; Nancy Cauvet; George Fletcher; and Thomas Morgan, Town Planner

Absent: Nell Ann Hiatt and Dorene Stern

Public Guests: John Whitcomb, PE, BL Companies); Thomas Murphy, CPEA, Unitil; Elana D'Orto, Historic District Representative; and Ted Reed, Manager of Operations Support, Sprague Energy

1) NH DES Permit Applications:

A) Proposal by **Unitil and Granite State Gas Transmission** to construct a gas line beneath Little Bay in the vicinity of the Captain John F. Rowe Bridge.

Unitil presented their proposal to replace the 10" gas transmission line that is attached to the Captain John F. Rowe Bridge with a new 10" line that would be installed 30 feet below the riverbed. The applicant proposes to position a drill rig just north of Rockingham Electric, and would do a horizontal directional drilling to Dover Point. They hope to commence the operations in approximately one year, and hopefully be off the bridge by December 2015.

Additional discussion regarding archeological disturbances ensued. Town Planner, Tom Morgan asked if a Town appointed archeologist could watch the digging of the 15'x15' and 30 foot deep pit, and John Whitcomb with BL Companies said that would be fine.

Co-Chair, Justin Richardson asked if there were any plans to have an environmental inspector on the site, and Tom Murphy with Unitil said there would probably be periodic inspections. Richardson then asked what the monitoring process would be in case of any "frac out" fractures above the drilling sites. John Whitcomb said the engineers doing the work would stop the process immediately, and project would be shut down for review to correct the problem.

Discussion of the site plan and wetlands impact application recommendations ensued. Tom Morgan asked that an email be sent to set up a meeting with the Planning Board in 6-8 months regarding the vegetation restoration plan.

Justin Richardson recommended that the Commissioners sign the Minimum Impact Expedited Application to construct a gas pipeline beneath Little Bay near the Captain John F. Rowe Bridge, and recommended that Unitil return with a site plan approval for any revegetation or above ground structures, as well as retain a Town recommended archeologist for any site work consultation. Peggy Lamson seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

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B) Proposal by **Sprague Energy** to upgrade the conveyor system at its Bloody Point terminal, requiring a DES Standard Dredge & Fill permit.

1) Ted Reed, Manager of Operations Support for Sprague Energy Company (SEC) presented a Standard Dredge and Fill application package for recommendation to be submitted to DES to repair the approach trestle and construct a hopper and conveyor system for the berthing and mooring of ships delivering products at SEC, including road salt, and gypsum rock to Georgia Pacific's gypsum plant.

Co-Chair, Justin Richardson inquired about dust particles from the gypsum, and Mr. Reed said the rock is moist most of the time, but occasionally requires a light misting during dry weather to keep it in place, noting that less is better to prevent runoff. Reed said the ships usually dock for 2-3 days, and the conveyor has hoods to reduce sound and dust runoff as well. Reed said the original dock was built in 1959.

Co-Chair, Jane Hislop made a motion to recommend approval of the Standard Dredge and Fill Application to DES to repair the approach trestle and construct a hopper and conveyor system at Berthing Cells 1 and 2 at Sprague's River Road Marine Terminal in Newington. Nancy Cauvet seconded, and all were in favor.

2) Ted Reed, for Sprague Energy Company presented their Permit by Notification (PBN) for maintenance repairs, including patching concrete spalls in the pile caps, repairing failed pile jackets, strengthening deteriorated piles with a concrete pile encasement, and repairing existing rock anchors to Dolphins A&B to extend the service life of the facility.

Commissioner, Peggy Lamson asked when the project would begin, and Mr. Reed told her they expect to begin in June 2012, bringing in a barge crane from Maine for approximately 2-3 weeks.

Nancy Cauvet recommended signing the PBN application for maintenance repairs of Dolphins A&B at Sprague's River Road Marine Terminal. Jane Hislop seconded, and all were in favor.

2) Town Forest Management Plan

Town Planner, Tom Morgan said Peggy Lamson had made inquiries with Art Ditto regarding what might be in the dumpsite that was left in the Town Forest. Tom said Art thought the dumpsite was created before the Air Force used the area. Peggy Lamson said Art agreed to come in to the January 12, 2012 Conservation meeting, and that an invitation to environmental consultant, Mark West should also be sent out.

3) Preliminary Discussions

A) Recent changes to the Shoreline Protection Services by the Senate which will now be called the Shoreline Water Quality Protection Act was discussed, along with the need for towns to look into establishing their own protective regulations. Town Planner, Tom Morgan commented that the end of the zoning year is bad timing for new regulations, however.

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B) Town Planner, Tom Morgan and Commissioner, Nancy Cauvet discussed their recent attendance at the Great Bay Coalition for Adaptive Management which stressed the importance of Best Management Practices (BMP's) for storm water treatment for nitrogen pollution reduction. Morgan said it would be important for Newington to do storm water mapping and internal restructuring to establish BMP's for the Town to become "MS4".

Co-Chair, Justin Richardson asked if the Sewer Commission should take the lead. Commissioner, George Fletcher said he thought there should be a study on what would be most cost effective considering numerous sources of nitrogen pollution. Fletcher said the Sewer Commission hired consultants to make recommendations on how to keep nitrogen pollution down. Tom Morgan said there is a lot of storm water runoff in Newington from the large areas of pavement that runs into the bay. Morgan said he was recently approached by someone in the EPA who offered to meet with the Newington Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, and Sewer Commission, and would advise when that date would be.

Invoices: Town Planner, Tom Morgan presented the annual blanket purchase order for signatures to pay Conservation Commission Recorder, Jane Kendall.

Peggy Lamson moved to pay Attorneys Bruton & Berube \$2947.50 for legal services on the Hislop Easement from the Conservation Fund. Abutters Jane Hislop and Justin Richardson recused themselves. George Fletcher seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Minutes: Nancy Cauvet moved to accept the November 10, 2011 meeting minutes. Peggy Lamson seconded, and all approved.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 12, 2011

Respectfully

Submitted by: Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary and
Tom Morgan, Town Planner