

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Upstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Commissioners Present: Mark Fairbrother - Chair, Donna Francis, Justin Fermann and Laurie Reid

Commissioners Absent: Addie Rose Holland – Alternate, Alex Peterkin, Deb Henson and Sean Werle

Staff: Walter Ramsey – Agent

Mark Fairbrother called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of August 8 and September 12 were accepted on a motion by JF that was seconded by LR. All approved.

6:30 PM PUBLIC MEETING: REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION: RDA #2019-02 filed by David McKenney of 77 Swamp Road, Montague, MA to determine if a proposed new septic system installation in the same current septic system location is subject to the Riverfront Protection Act. The work will occur at 77 Swamp Road Montague, MA identified as Assessors Map 40 Lot 89.

Present for applicant: none

Agent reported on site visit with Mr. McKenney. WR: The system is on the opposite side of a paved driveway from the resource area. Agent agrees there is no other viable place to locate the system without more resource area impacts. Applicant identified a location for materials that is outside of the resource areas. Review of existing permits for the site show that the property is compliant with two previous Orders of Conditions issued by the Commission. Agent noted for the file that Goddard Brook was completely dry when he visited the site.

No public comment was received.

MOTION by DF to issue a negative determination for RDA #2019-02 filed by David McKenney. Seconded by JF. All approved. Motion Passed.

6:40 PM PUBLIC HEARING: NOTICE OF INTENT: NOI #2019-05 filed by Eversource Energy for the construction of a temporary work pad and access road within jurisdictional resource areas in order to facilitate replacement of two transmission pole structures in the Line 354 right-of-way, north of Wendell Road.

Present for applicant: Simon Hildt, engineering contractor for Eversource

Simon walked the Commission through the application. The work builds off previously permitted transmission pole replacement projects. Agent reported on a site visit with Eversource that had taken six months prior. Works is being submitted as “limited project”. The Commission agreed that the performance standards have been met to maximum extent and this will not be detrimental to existing conditions.

DEP issued file comments (229-0257). Their two comments were addressed. No public comment was received. Agent reported on a site visit with Eversource that had taken six months prior.

***MOTION** by JF to grant an Order of Conditions for NOI 2019-05 filed by Eversource Energy. Seconded by DF. All approved. Motion Passed.*

6:50 PM Ratify EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE: EC #2019-02 filed by Montague Center Water District Montague, Center, MA to repair a public water line break in vicinity of Meadow Road bridge crossing the Sawmill River. Work occurred 9/16/2019- 9/17/2019.

Agent reported that work was complete and the site is back to its pre-exisitgg conditions. Photographs from the file were shared. The water line break was successful repaired. The line was more than 3 feet under the bed of the river. A mini excavator was required because of the depth, but no trace was left on the bed or banks of the River.

***MOTION** by JF to ratify EC #2019-02 filed by Montague Center Water District. Seconded by DF. All approved. Motion Passed.*

***MOTION** by DF to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM. Seconded by LR. Motion passed.*

Approved by: _____ Date: _____