



MADBURY PLANNING BOARD

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DRAFT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Minutes of: March 1st, 2023

Meeting Convened: 7:06 pm

Members in Attendance:

Marcia Goodnow - Chair

Fritz Green -Ex Officio

Michael Card - Secretary

Tom Burbank

Andrew Losee

Support Staff:

Daphne Chevalier - Recording Secretary

Meeting Attendees:

Eric Fiegenbaum, Town Administrator

Sherrie Tretry (VHB), for Eversource

Kaitlin Griffin, for Eversource

Kurt Nelson, Eversource

Ellis Lehner, Eversource

Emily Martin, 2 Sarah Paul Hill

William Courtemanche, 10 Garrison Lane

Melissa Walker, 124 Perkins Road

Sandy Heald, 60 Evans Road

1. Seating of Alternates

No alternates to seat this evening.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Member Green to accept the minutes for February 15th, 2023.

Seconded by Member Card. **Motion passes unanimously.**

3. Correspondence

No correspondence to enter into the record this evening.

4. Public Hearing: Temporary Wetland Crossing Conditional Use Permit

-Property: Eversource Right of Way, Tax Map 8 Lots 9, 9-A, 10, 18-E, 18-F, 20

Tax Map 9 Lots 11-A, 16, 16-A, 16-B, 18, 20-A, 53, 58, 60-L, 60-S, 74

-Applicant: VHB on behalf of Eversource

-Proposal: The applicant requests a temporary wetland crossing in support to perform maintenance work on the 345kV 307 and 115kV M-183 Transmission Lines in Madbury involving four (4) utility structure (pole) replacements, and optical ground wire (OPGW) replacement on the 307 Line, and six (6) pole replacements on the M-183 Line.

Chair Goodnow reviews the procedures for the public hearing, reminding the public to direct all questions to her. She then reads the notice of public hearing. Chair Goodnow **opens** the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

The Board reviews the checklist for the Eversource application to ensure all required elements have been met.

Motion by Member Burbank to accept the application for consideration. **Seconded** by Member Green. **Motion passes unanimously.**

VHB representative Sherrie Tretry shares that the applicant was unable to meet with the Water Conservation Committee and will be meeting with the Conservation Commission tomorrow. The proposed project is being undertaken as part of Eversource's routine maintenance to address aging infrastructure and update technology. The line changes will serve as lightning protection from the ground and the ground wire will allow for communication between the site and headquarters. This work is being conducted from Deerfield to Eliot for the optical underground wire. This wire is heavier, so the structures need to be stronger. The 307 line work, from the Madbury substation to the Dover substation, will be done by helicopter, but the applicant will need some work areas on the ground. Ms. Tretry explains the purpose of the smaller and larger work pads in the proposal. The applicant will be using timber matting in the wetland areas and some of the upland areas. Otherwise, they will use compact gravel, which is required as the equipment needs to come in on flatbed trucks, which the roads will need to be able to support. The replacement structures will be within 5 - 10' of the existing structures. The new structures must be put in before the old structures can be removed. After the project is complete, the work pad areas will be restored with a small gravel area to allow for routine maintenance. They will be monitoring those areas for revegetation, especially of the wetland areas. Eversource is required to conduct weekly environmental monitoring, including erosion controls. All exposed areas need to be seeded and mulched within three days, but Ms. Tretry explains the crews do this work every day before they leave for the day. Reports are sent to DES, Eversource, the contractor, and public relations to make sure those issues are addressed immediately. She reviews the wetland temporary pad areas and the total area buffer impact. As the structures are in existing use, the applicant is maintaining the existing use and taking mitigation measures to protect the environment.

Chair Goodnow asks Ms. Tretry to define "timber matting." Ms. Tretry explains the timber matting are 10 x 10 squares bolted together that are laid out to create a passage without creating a depression in the wetland, thus allowing the root structure to stay intact. Once the timber matting is removed, the area vegetation bounces back pretty quickly. Chair Goodnow asks Ms. Tretry to define "structure." Ms. Tretry says the structures they are referring to are two-pole structures, not buildings. Chair Goodnow asks Ms. Tretry about the use of timber matting in upland areas. Ms. Tretry says the upland areas where they use timber matting tend to be turf or agricultural fields for areas that are more difficult. Member Green asks about the lightning protection. Ms. Tretry says every structure is grounded for lightning. Chair Goodnow asks if that is new, to which Ms. Tretry replies no, there is a shield wire there now. The lightning protection

being installed will continue to function as shield wire but also have communication ability. Member Losee asks about the pole location numbers. Ms. Tretry says they are just an identifier. Member Losee asks if there is information about the makeup of the structure. Mr. Nelson says the applicant is moving from wood to steel structures of the same H-frame style. These are direct imbeds (no foundations proposed). Member Losee asks about the access roads. Ms. Tretry says some of the roads have already been constructed due to previous work. If there aren't any existing access roads, the applicant will create access roads within the ROW. If those are outside the ROW, creation of those access roads is pending landowner permission. Member Losee asks if the road will still exist after the work is complete. Ms. Tretry explains the areas where the mats are should return to normal. Anything scuffed up in the removal of the mats will be reseeded. Member Card asks about the timeline for the project. Mr. Nelson says they are hoping to begin work in April on one of the lines. The applicant is still waiting for a few permits for the various lines. For the other lines, they are looking at a start date in May or June. He said the M-183 line should take about 3 months to complete. The 307 will take longer because it is a much longer line. Eversource will make sure they keep the Town aware of the helicopter work hours. Member Card asks about the work hours. Mr. Nelson says they will abide by the town ordinances and plan to work between 7 am - 7 pm. He notes if people observe contracted workers working outside of those work hours in the ROW, the applicant should be made aware of that as all contracted workers should be abiding by the hours stated in the plan. Chair Goodnow asks about the noise impact. Mr. Nelson says there will be bulldozers, cranes, dumptrucks, and drilling rig equipment. Ms. Tretry says the loudest thing is the impact hammer, which the applicant would need to use if there is any ledge that needs to be broken up. There is also the noise of the helicopters. Member Green shares the timber mats really worked out well on the last project.

Chair Goodnow invites those abutters in the audience in support of the proposal to speak. William Courtemanche, 10 Garrison Lane, asks if the vegetation clearing going on along the M-183 line is part of this project. Mr. Nelson says he believes there was some preliminary clearing along that line. Mr. Courtemanche asks about the area where gravel would be added. Mr. Nelson says it will look stark at the beginning of the project, but over time, those areas do vegetate.

Chair Goodnow invites those abutters in opposition to the proposal to speak. Melissa Walker of 124 Perkins Road has concerns about the pond on her property. Last time work was conducted, the applicant went across the pond, which is spring fed. It has taken a long time for the pond to get back to its original state. She asks if this will happen again. Mr. Nelson says the plan is to circumvent the pond. Ms. Walker asks how that would impact the tree farm on the property. Mr. Nelson says he believes they are clear of the trees but is happy to do recognizance of the area to ensure it would not impact the trees. Ms. Kaitlin Griffin, representative for Eversource, shares that in discussions with the project manager, he assured her that it wouldn't impact the tree farm.

Ms. Emily Martin of 2 Sarah Paul Hill expresses concerns about trees being cut down, taking away her privacy and impacting the bike trails behind her house. She asks if there will be more trees taken down. Mr. Nelson says that was the result of the Eversource ROW reclamation last year. There should have been some communication with Ms. Martin about that project. At this

point, that work has been done, so there is no more clearing needed. Ms. Griffin asks to get Ms. Martin's information if she is not happy with how the work was managed. Ms. Martin also shares that the gate was usually left open during the day and people are venturing in the open gate, in case that is a concern for the applicant.

Ms. Sandy Heald of 60 Evans Road asks if abutters will be notified ahead of time if there will be ledge drilling. Ms. Griffin says the applicant can notify her the day of, as they don't always know in advance.

Chair Goodnow calls any other member of the public to speak either in support of or opposition to the project. Hearing none, Chair Goodnow **closes** the public hearing at 7:57 pm.

Chair Goodnow wonders if there is the possibility to set up a communications center at the Town Hall so that as the work is going on, people could contact someone with any concerns they have while the project is being undertaken. Mr. Nelson says Ms. Griffin's number will be made available. Ms. Griffin says there is a project hotline number. Chair Goodnow requests that information be given to the Town Administrator so the Town can communicate that information to the community.

Chair Goodnow calls on the Board for questions. Member Green asks what will be different when the work is completed (other than the structures being changed from wood to metal). Ms. Tretry says the poles are slightly taller, but it will have the same look as it does now. The intent is for the structures to be more reliable. They should last 75+ years, as there will be no worry about rot, insect infestation, and birds.

Chair Goodnow calls the Board to review the checklist to ensure all items on the list were met. After review of the checklist is complete, Chair Goodnow calls for a motion.

Motion by Member Green to approve the application as submitted conditional on a similar approval by the Water Board and the Conservation Commission. **Seconded** by Member Burbank. **Motion passes unanimously.**

The Board pauses briefly to allow the public to disperse.

5. Other Business

a. **Housing Academy update**

Chair Goodnow was unable to attend the last meeting, but hopes a video will be made available soon for review.

b. **Housing fliers**

Chair Goodnow shares a draft of the flier.

Motion by Member Losee to adopt the informational flier as presented. **Seconded** by Green. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Chair Goodnow reports that Ms. Durfee can get the fliers printed for the Board. The Board discusses how many copies to request of Ms. Durfee and settles on 200 copies that

can be posted and made available in various locations. Chair Goodnow applauds the work done on this flier.

c. Website

Chair Goodnow mentions the website.

Motion to adjourn by Member Card. **Seconded** by Member Green. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Daphne Chevalier.