

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 19th, 2020

Minutes to the Meeting/Hearing

***THIS MEETING WASS DONE REMOTELY USING THE GoToMeeting PLATFORM***

Roll Call:

Tennis Lilly- Present  
Mary DiMauro- Present  
Rachel Torres- Present  
Eric Lundquist- Present

Also Present:

Dan McCarthy, Land Use Planner  
Jorge Martinez, Minute Taker

***Upon a motion made by Mr. Lundquist and Ms. Torres, the commission unanimously voted to open the public meeting.***

Mr. Lilly opened the meeting by greeting everyone that was present. He then stated that due to the COVID-19 Outbreak, the changes made to the Open Meeting Law by Governor Baker, and subsequent policy changes made by Mayor Rivera the Conservation Commission's meeting that was scheduled for March 19, 2020, is to be done remotely.

He then stated that there are two matters on the agenda that need to be tended to.

### NEW CASES

***Request for Determination***

***Applicant: Columbia Gas of MA***

***RE: Portions of E. Haverhill, Newbury, Oak and Elm Street***

***Proposed gas main replacement in roadway within 100 foot wetland buffer***

Present to address the board was Dana Altobello of Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors. Mr. Altobello stated that the work that is being performed spans portions of East Haverhill Street, Newbury Street, Oak Street and Elm Street. He stated that the previous cast iron pipes will be replaced with pipes that are made of a newer, safer material. He added that the total length of the pipe will be approximately 3,310 feet. He added that a small portion of the work will be done in the 100 foot buffer zone. He then added that the pipe will be installed using the Open Trench Method. He added that each day a section of the trench will be dug, the pipe will be installed and the trench will then be backfilled. He stated that essentially the work will be done one day at a time.

He stated that erosion control technology will be installed and filter fabric will be installed as well. Lastly, he stated that no work will be done in the rain and that the project will have no impacts on wetland areas.

Mr. Lilly then asked the other members of the commission if they had any questions.

Mr. Lilly then referred to photo number four in the packet that Mr. Altobello submitted. He wanted to know if it was near the Bloody Brook. Mr. Lundquist and Mr. McCarthy stated that it was not. They stated that the area is near an area that was referred to as The Fasella lot.

Mr. Lilly then wanted to know if the project would have any impact on the inland bank. Mr. Altobello stated that it would. He then stated that the intersection of East Haverhill Street and Newbury Street has a 30ft-50ft section that is within the 100ft buffer zone, but not the 25ft buffer zone.

Mr. Altobello then stated that he wanted to make sure that everyone is on board and on the same page.

Mr. Lilly then asked Mr. McCarthy what the commissions options were. Mr. McCarthy stated that the commission could issue a Negative 3 & 5 Determination with the condition that the applicant must install methods of erosion control in order to keep sediment out of the waterways.

***Upon a motion made by Ms. Torres and Ms. DiMauro, the commission unanimously decided to issue a Negative 3 & 5 determination with the condition that the applicant install methods of erosion control that will prevent sediment from getting into the waterways.***

***Request for Determination***

***Applicant: Columbia Gas of MA***

***RE: Portions of Haverhill, Jackson and Elm Street and Lincoln Court***

***Proposed gas main replacement in roadway at or near Spicket River***

Mr. Altobello was also present to address the commission. He stated that the project will span sections of Haverhill, Jackson and Elm Street and Lincoln Court. He then added that the project that is of interest to the Conservation Commission is the Proposed gas main replacement in roadway at or near Spicket River

He stated that the Old Cast Iron pipe will be replaced. He stated that 2,575 feet of pipe will eventually be replaced. He stated that much of the work will take place in an existing roadway. He added that the project will be taking place within the 50ft buffer zone and the 25ft buffer zone. He stated that the project started in February of 2020.

Like the last project, Mr. Altobello stated that the project will be done using the Open Trench Method and will be one day at a time. He also stated that filter fabric will also be installed and erosion controls will be installed.

Ms. DiMauro then asked what the timeframe of the project will be. Mr. Altobello stated that the project was scheduled to start in April, but that the timeframe may change because of the COVID-19 virus.

Mr. Lilly then asked if the pressure would be a high pressure system. Mr. Altobello stated that it would be. He stated that the pressure will be increased along the way. He then stated that the pipe would be made of HDPE, which is a little safer. Mr. Altobello then stated that the lines that are in the worst condition will be identified and replaced first.

It was suggested that the commission issue a Negative 3 & 5 determination.

***Upon a motion made by Mr. Lundquist and Ms. Torres, the commission unanimously decided to issue a Negative 3 & 5 determination.***

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

### ***Amended RDA***

An issue was brought to Mr. McCarthy's attention regarding sidewalks that were previously approved to be installed on Route 114. It was mentioned that there is erosion on the edge of the sidewalks. There were plans for grass and seed, but due to other factors the grass did not take and did not grow.

Mr. Lilly then stated that the project would need a new RDA or new approval as soon as possible,

Mr. McCarthy stated that the initial plan was to grind down and pave the sidewalks in the end of May.

Mr. Lilly then stated that he was open to suggestions.

Mr, McCarthy stated that there is no such thing as an Amended RDA.

Mr. Lilly then stated that the commission would normally allow work that mitigates against erosion without going before the commission.

***Upon a motion made by Ms. DiMauro and Ms. Torres, the commission unanimously decided to correspondence in the form of an email to notify her that the board will allow her to continue the project. The correspondence will list the limits of the project.***

### ***Plastic Bag Ordinance***

Mr. Lilly suggested postponing the issue until the commission can meet in person.

It was mentioned by the commissioners that Market Basket should be present at the meeting. Mr. Martinez then stated that the smaller bodegas in the area should be present as well.

Mr. Lilly stated that the City Council would need to approve the ordinance. He then added that the process would take some time.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the commission should seek the Board of Health's approval as well. Mr. Lilly then stated that the commission should seek the approval of other stakeholders as well.

Ms. Torres then wanted to know what the status of the city's recycling ordinance would be. Mr. Lilly stated that it was tabled.

Ms. Torres then stated that she would like to know what gets done with the recyclables after they get turned in.

Mr. Lilly then stated that it would be a good idea to have the city's recycling coordinator present during the commission's next in-person meeting.

***Upon a motion made by Mr. Lundquist and seconded by Ms. Torres, the commission unanimously voted to adjourn the public meeting.***