

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2015

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, David Mctigue, Jack Messe, Matt Oliveira, Joanne Meshna and Lori Rautiola
PUBLIC: Lisa Oden and Karen Miller

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

The minutes of the October 14, 2015 meeting were reviewed and the following corrections made: Page one under water resources change the word screen to stream regarding the stream. Second page, fourth paragraph, fifth sentence, add to the end "...that could be impacted." and fifth paragraph last sentence should read "brings the acreage down to 14 acres." The first paragraph on page 3 should state "Bob nominated". Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Lands: Bob opened the meeting with a statement regarding the NED Project Impact in general (see attached). He distributed a map of the Harvey Moore subdivision located between Timbertop Road, Hubbard Pond Road, and Route 124 with the power lines going through it. Bob added it is not town owned conservation land, it is owned by Eversource. The Town Conservation land is not being directly impacted by the pipeline, although the activity near there will make an impact on the land and habitats anywhere in the surrounding area. New England Forestry holds easements on this private property.

Public Water Supplies: Bob distributed another document showing a list of intersections of water resources in the Northeast and NED including the proposed compressor station. There are three first order streams that intersect with the pipeline. Two come out of a pond on the SKAT property, which is south of the public utility right away, and flow into the Greenville Reservoir. The other stream comes out of Al Jenks' pond and flows into the Gridley River. There would most likely be mitigation for them. The list also showed the wetlands that would be potentially impacted. There is no mitigation for wetlands less than 10,000 square feet. Bob passed out another document showing a map of a 14 acre wetland off Timbertop Road. He pointed out where the wetland was located and how the path of the projected pipeline route would go directly through it. Kinder Morgan would have to make bends in the pipeline to go around and there are homeowners abutting this property, so jogging it even a little bit would impact people's property even more. Matt suggested the Commission should ask Kinder Morgan what they would potentially do to go around the wetland. Bob noted it would be easier to determine the impact if we know that answer and added there would be roughly 3-4 acres impacted here. He noted that DES will make the decision as to how much land will be impacted; all the Conservation Commission does in this process is compile a list of projects for mitigation.

Public water supplies are those water supplies that serve 25 or more people 65 days a year, such as schools or common wells (15 or more connections to the well). Bob stated he had done some research regarding a ground water protection ordinance for New Ipswich and thought the Commission should put together an ordinance for the Town to help protect the ground water in New Ipswich. There is currently a zoning ordinance for wells and a ground water protection ordinance would strengthen the current one. The current regulations will still apply. This would have to come under the Zoning Ordinance.

Wendy Juchnevics-Freeman, Sebastian Barthelmess, Dennis Gauvin and Kathy Gauvin (Pipeline Task Force) joined the meeting. Having just met with the Planning Board Wendy stated the Planning Board was content to have the Conservation Commission draw up a ground water protection ordinance. Bob recapped the Conservation meeting and the Harvey Moore subdivision was brought up regarding potential mitigation on the land due to the NED project. Wendy noted if Kinder Morgan were to take conservation land, FERC expects that to be mitigated as well as wetlands. Wendy asked Bob for clarification regarding the conservation land in New Ipswich saying there is a lot of conservation land or open space land, such as the Green Farm Road homes, that states in their homeowner's association regulations that it is protected land, and a natural gas pipeline would not be allowed. It just doesn't state "conservation land". Bob replied it is not considered conservation land in the eyes of the federal government. Wendy asked again how to define conservation land, adding if it is protected, it is conservation land. Bob replied, if someone other than the owner holds easements on that land, and it meets the guidelines of the federal government, it is conservation land. Wendy stated these properties are projects for mitigation and should be presented to FERC. She added there is also land in current use that will be affected by the pipeline. Bob stated current use does not fall under the Conservation Commission's purview.

Mr. Barthelmess asked about Beaver Dam and the two ponds located off Temple Road. He believes this area will be impacted by the compressor station. Mr. Barthelmess also stated he didn't see any vernal pools on the list that Bob passed out earlier. Bob stated vernal pools are not recognized by the State and therefore there is no record of them. Wendy noted the pipeline citizens group is willing to walk the pipeline route and identify the vernal pools; Bob pointed out they would need to be identified by a licensed wetland scientist. Mr. Barthelmess offered to submit more information to Bob regarding the two ponds and streams located off Temple Road.

The Board agreed to submit a ground water protection ordinance to the Planning Board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola, Secretary

