

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 6, 2021**

PRESENT: (via Zoom) Wendy Juchnevics-Freeman, Chairman, Walker Farrey, Vice Chairman, Jim Coffey, Susan Mallett, Secretary

Eversource and representatives of Eversource: Lindsey White, Elise Ward, Connor Jennings, Jeremy Fennell.

Also on the meeting were abutters, Brian Luthy, Lauren LaPrade, Mike Maki, Mr & Mrs Fressilli

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office at 7:00 p.m.

**7:00 pm: Hearing for Eversource submission of Variance Application for Pole replacement**

Eversource submitted a variance application to Article X Section D of the Zoning Ordinance to permit the replacement of existing utility structures with the existing and maintained 367 Transmission Line Right-of-Way.

Lindsey presented the maps and explained where they would be working to replace the poles and access routes to get there.

Walker asked if these access routes would be the same access used two or so years ago, and if any new roadway/access routes were going to be created.

Eversource indicated the answer to both would be yes. They are working with Mr Maki to temporarily use his property as access to avoid a particular area that would be adversely affected by heavy equipment and is steep.

At this point the meeting was opened to abutters.

Mr. Fressilli has concerns about tree clearing in the area of Boynton Hill and Todd Road.

It was noted that there are different permits, projects, road widening in that area, and we would need more specific info or perhaps pictures to identify who and the trees were cut.

There was a general discussion of why do they only do certain poles and not all of them, particularly a pole not slated for replacement but is in the Maki land area.

Jeremy noted that until a pole fails inspection or shows signs of deterioration, it will not be replaced.

Wendy feels some idea of the pole 289 condition is warranted to avoid this in the near future if possible so as to not inconvenience Mr Maki again. She suggested making #289 replacement as a condition vs. postponing decision.

Walker asked if other access if Maki access was not there in the future and noted pole replacement if it is in good condition is not warranted. Jim echoed this sentiment

It was determined that the staging for this project would be at the substations and would not be long term.

Lindsey reviewed the 5 criteria that support this request. She also answered questions about permanent grading and restoration. Jeremy also noted that on the steep areas they will focus on getting the vegetation back as soon as it is possible to prevent erosion.

There was a motion made by Walker and seconded by Jim to close and go into deliberations.

Wendy once again reviewed the criteria and on all 5 all were in agreement.

Jim made a motion to approve the Variance as submitted with the condition that the steep slopes be restored and Walker seconded the motion.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

Susan brought up the fee schedule, and noted that we are only charging \$50 for the newspaper ads, however they are averaging more like \$75. Also it was noted that the \$50 fee hadn't been increased since at least 2014. All were in agreement it seemed fair to raise both the fees to \$75.

Wendy brought up the logistics of the meeting (in person vs. Zoom). It was decided that if the applicant prefers to attend via Zoom, that we all will attend via Zoom rather than be in the office. This should make presentations easier and also makes sure personal equipment isn't needed to be used to facilitate meetings in the meeting room.

Wendy also suggested perhaps if enough in training budget an inexpensive laptop could be purchased and that she wished to push hard for better technology for the meetings to improve sound etc.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim, and Walker seconded the motion.

#### **Action items:**

Sue to share with Wendy the training budget

Sue to share and ask for contact info in the case we need to reach out to the others (for instance, we are not able to attend or the meeting is cancelled at the last minute)

Sue to draft up the acceptance letter and share with the Zoning Board members

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Mallett