

Hopedale Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
August 18th, 2020

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*By Lisa M. Pedrolis at 11:18 am, Sep 28, 2020*

Call to Order: 6.30pm by Vanessa Calabrese  
Meeting held virtually via Zoom.

Attendees on Zoom:

Dave Guglielmi, Marcia Matthews, Sandi Tetreault, Vanessa Calabrese  
Linda Sarkisian, Janice Doyle, Lou Arcudi, Dona, Diana Schindler, Tim Watson, Amy Paquette, Glenda Hazard, Ed Burt, Jamie Deppe, Michael Milanoski, Tara Chambers, Robert Butler, Liz Reilly, David, Melissa Mercon Smith.

Note: July 21, 2020 meeting wasn't held. Meeting minutes for 7 July 2020 were reviewed and approved by all members.

Items:

Draper Landfill Site Monitoring Well Installations. They agreed to install 3 new monitoring wells. Continuation under the MA contingency plan. No request or notices of intent required.

GURR (Grafton Upton Railroad) Transformer Relocation Approval, to move solar roof panels from left to right of building. No formal paperwork required.

Determination of Applicability - Keolis Commuter Services as owner and operator of the commuter rail passenger service is requesting RDA for review of the wetlands along the MBTA Purple Line right of way, as part of the renewal of the 5-year vegetation management plan (VMP). Dave (Con Com) will reach out to the engineers at FDCE to confirm if the Charles River Watershed Association is aware of this action. Item will remain open.

GURR discussed the 364 West Street Forestry Land. Mike Milanoski said John DelaPriscoli has owned the railroad now about ten years. He said any ground contamination was from prior to John's ownership/management. Mike had met with the Planning Board. The railroad has a signed Purchase & Sale and plans to proceed with the land purchase of 180 acres, development of a 5-track switching yard, and 4 new buildings, two above the tracks and two below the tracks. They would build roads and parking lots. They will need a new access road from Route 140. He said they would preserve the town's water supply and not develop wetland area, but the access road would impact some wetlands. He mentioned offering a donation of sizeable land in a "land swap."

Dave asked about the watershed and Hopedale Pond. How can you not impact the resource area? What is the storm water system design, recharge, retention basin to the grounds? Flood storage capacity? Not a negative impact? Water run-off, filtration changes. Plan to build more buildings over time, approximately 70,000-80,000 square feet. How to protect our resource areas, air, land, and water?

Mike said they would minimize runoff to try to mitigate as best they can.

Marcia mentioned endangered species and wildlife there. Mike said they have a right to develop it under Federal Regulations and they are going to develop it.

Tim Watson, manager at the Water Dept., asked if the Railroad purchases it, is it all under preemptive rights or only areas they perform activity on? Is the 450 foot radius preserved and controlled by the town if yield test comes out negative? If purchase didn't go through, would they still provide walking trails? Mike said they would have to go through a different board for that, could be the Board of Selectmen.

If they meet or exceed DEP requirements they still have liability.

Mike said they will preserve 450 feet for now to let the town test area for yield of water. If it's a resource area, it will be preserved. If not, the railroad can utilize that land.

Diana Schindler spoke about being able to work with the Water Dept. and Highway Dept. and has secured letters of support for a planning grant, municipal vulnerability re climate change and flood control, to assist with funding for the town to exercise their right to buy the land. Dave has offered his help in this project.

#### Site Visits:

The Pinecrest Culvert/Conservation Cleanup - Dave is working with Catrina Proctor, Mass Mosquito Control. Dave walked with CMMC the Tillotson/Pinecrest open space. Needs a map, to place orange stakes and cement boundaries. Work may begin in September. Dave met with Guerrick & Halnon at the site. Area is marked off as what is conservation v. what is not. Dave noted boundaries were found. Vanessa suggested a site walk through to look over. This area blends into open space near area of Hammond Road and Mendon Street. Vanessa has been in touch with Mendon town administrator and has approval to put up signs identifying open space. Dave is working with Chris Hader at the Highway Dept. for proper placement of future signage.

252 South Main, Milford Tire, requests to cut trees. Conservation land is behind Milford Tire. They exhibited some trees that threatened to fall over. Milford Tire could not wait and hired a company to take the trees down as a safety measure. Going forward, the board would like a better response time to take care of issues to ensure safety of the town.

#### Items Still Pending:

Hammond Road and Mendon Street open space needs follow-up with Town Admin for signage "Town Land".

Parks and Con Com joint effort to educate residents of wetlands in their area. Vanessa has not heard back from Parks Dept. on this item. Looking to compose a letter to residents re yardwork in or near conservation/wetlands areas. Marcia to reach out to Parks Dept. how best to notify residents.

#### Pending requests

Steve Ellis 144 Freedom Street Notice of Intent for a retaining wall. DEP file number just came in today, so this item will be heard at the next scheduled meeting.

Chaplin 112 Dutcher Street pending DEP file number.

Popkin 116 Hartford Avenue needs a DEP file number.

Vanessa adjourned the meeting at 747 pm.

Board's next meeting to be scheduled at a later date will include continuation of items from the August meeting.

Agenda will be posted per standard posting requirements. Agenda will include call-in/zoom meeting information.