



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749  
(978) 562-2948

*Paul Byrne, Chair*

*Joseph Rodrigues*

*Marianne Iarossi*

*David Mercer, Vice Chair*

*Emilie Wilder*

*Brandon Parker*

*Jason Weksner*

### Meeting Minutes October 4, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by chair Paul Byrne

Roll Call: Paul Byrne, David Mercer, Joe Rodrigues, Marianne Iarossi, Emilie Wilder, Brandon Parker, Jason Weksner

Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)

### Public Hearings

**Causeway Street, RDA**

**Present: David Cowell, Hancock Associates; Patrick Laverty, Hudson Light and Power**

#### **Documents:**

- Letter, RE: Horizontal Directional Drill in Placement of Underground Electric Distribution Line Causeway Street, Hudson, MA – Request for Determination of Applicability; prepared by Hancock Associates; dated 9/19/18
- Existing Conditions Plan of Land, Off Site Electric Easement 225 Causeway Street, Pages TO-1 and TO-2; prepared by Hancock Associates; dated 11/28/17; scale 1"=20'
- Proposed Underground Routed Distribution Plan; prepared by Electric Power Engineering; dated 9/11/18; scale 1"=20'

The applicant proposes to move power lines underground as part of a storm hardening initiative. The site is in Riverfront Area to Fort Meadow Brook and contains Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The applicant proposes to use horizontal directional drilling beneath the wetlands to install the lines with no disturbance to the wetland. Pads will be installed just outside the wetland on either end. New England wetland seed mix will be used to revegetate disturbed areas when the work is completed. The overhead lines and poles will be removed. Once the lines are moved, the wetlands will no longer be disturbed by periodic tree pruning.

Paul Byrne asked whether dewatering would be necessary when installing the pads. Pat Laverty said the work will be done in December or January when the area should be fairly dry. David Cowell said that if de-watering is necessary, standard operating practices would be used with a

screen to filter sediment and the water held in a filter bag in an upland location. He will provide documentation on standard dewatering procedures. David Cowell also said that frackout is very unlikely since the drilling bore is very small and the distance is very short.

Paul Byrne moved to close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination with the following conditions: pre-construction site inspection with the conservation agent after erosion controls are installed; commission is notified if dewatering is necessary and conservation agent inspects the dewatering setup. Second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 7-0-0.

### **331 Central Street, NOI, 190-06xx**

**Present: Scott Hayes, Foresite Engineering**

#### **Documents:**

- Notice of Intent Plan, 331 Central Street; prepared by Foresite Engineering; dated 6/6/18; signed and stamped by Scott P. Hayes, PE# 41017; scale 1"=10'

Brandon Parker recused himself from the hearing because he is friends with an abutter. The applicant proposes to put an addition on a single family home and construct a driveway and deck in Buffer Zone to an intermittent stream and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The BVW is down a slope from house. The closest point of work to the BVW is about 50 feet. The driveway will be constructed around two large maples in the front yard to avoid cutting them. Several tall pines in the backyard are becoming hazardous and will be cut.

Paul Byrne moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions. Second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 6-0-1. Special Condition: trash including the old chicken coop in the back yard may be removed by hand.

### **Administrative Business**

**Discussion** – Wildflower Path

**Present: Jerry Sarno, Deerpath Condominiums**

The condominium has been doing work on their unpaved road. The end of the road is in Riverfront Area to the Assabet River and there may be Bordering Vegetated Wetland along the road. Paul Byrne said that the area needs to be flagged and that if there are wetlands, an NOI is required to do any further work.

**Minutes** – Paul Byrne moved to approve the minutes from September 20, 2018. Second by Emilie Wilder, vote 6-0-1.

**Discussion** – 4 LaFrance Ave

Pam Helinek received a call from an abutter reporting that a large area of the property had been converted to lawn. Pam Helinek performed a site inspection and the area designated for invasive removal and native plantings is now lawn with some native shrubs. The landscapers are mowing down to the straw wattle line. Paul Byrne said that the area must be allowed to re-naturalize. The owner is out of the country but Pam Helinek will speak with Steve Poole, his consultant.

### **Adjournment**

Marianne Iarossi moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Dave Mercer, vote 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.