MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
February 11, 2019

Present:  Jeff Lingham
Carl Hakansson
Cathy Van Lancker
Greg Wands
K.G. Narayana
Maeghan Dos Anjos (Agent)

Absent: Gene Crouch (Chair)
William Moulton (Vice Chair)

Call to order: 7:15 P.M.

7:15  95-849 Amended OOC, Town of Ashland, Riverwalk Project, properties off of
Sudbury Road, Pine Hill Road, Ponderosa Road, and Sudbury Road
Ms. Jennifer Ball (Assistant Town Manager), Tiffany Card (Green International Affiliates),
and Danielle Spicer (Green International Affiliates) were present for the hearing. Ms. Ball
stated that they came in front of the Conservation Commission in September to Amend the
OOC for the long span bridge. The amendment addressed temporary disturbances within the
inlet to Mill Pond. Ms. Ball stated that when the Town went out to bid with the latest
amended plans, quotes came back at a higher costs than what the budget would allow. Mr.
Narayana further asked on budget questions. Ms. Ball stated that the timber bridge was
cheaper and achieved the same aesthetic that was displayed at Town Meeting.

Ms. Card explained that they had looked into several options for timber piles, and that the
timber piles will be driven into the riverbed. Ms. Card said that this method allows the
contractor to install the piles without the use of a crane. Impacts to Pine Hill Road, Mill Pond
Park, and nearby utilities will be reduced over that of the previous amendment. Ms. Spicer
stated that under today’s amendment request, temporary impacts would be 400 square feet,
with 120 square feet of permanent impacts. Ms. Card said that no excavation or dewatering is
needed on the timber driven method.

Mr. Hakansson asked about the life span of timber posts. Ms. Card stated that the life span is
longer in areas where there are not high fluctuations in the water level, and that the life span is
about 50 years from the date of install.

Mr. Hakansson stated that the work is subject to EPA review. Ms. Spicer stated that it is not
jurisdictional to EPA, but is jurisdictional to DEP. Mr. Hakansson clarified further that his
question regarding EPA review had to do with Nyanza. Ms. Spicer stated that there is a
condition in the OOC requiring plans to be submitted to EPA to review, prior to construction.
Ms. Van Lancker asked about silt accumulations from driving the posts into the riverbed. Ms. Card explained that they will not be doing any excavating, and that it will naturally resettle after the posts are driven in.

The Commission asked further details on materials used, and general construction for the long span bridge. The Commission also asked about coating of the pilings and if they need to be applied after a certain time period. Ms. Card stated that they will need to be coated again in the future, and that they would be applied only during low flow periods. Ms. Card also explained that given low fluctuations in the water level, rot is not a concern as you would only see it on posts exposed to constant fluctuations in water level. Ms. Van Lancker stated that coatings should be environmentally friendly and that a condition should be added in the Order of Conditions. Mr. Lingham suggested that another condition be added regarding a turbidity curtain. Ms. Spicer spoke about permits needed from federal and state agencies.

The Commission opened the hearing to abutters. Only one abutter was present. Mr. Ray Trainor of 84 Sudbury Road asked questions as it relates to EPA/DEP jurisdiction. Mr. Trainor also asked about decking, fasteners used, and other materials used for the installation of the long span bridge. Mr. Trainor asked about winter time maintenance. Ms. Ball stated that the trail would be open to snowshoeing/cross country skiing, but that it would not be plowed. Mr. Trainor asked if an Emergency Safety Plan is in place if something goes wrong, and asked about funding and who pays for unforeseen circumstances. Ms. Card spoke about the warranty from the company, and Ms. Ball explained bonds.

Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Narayana to close the hearing. Motion passed 5-0-0.

The Commission discussed conditions to be added to the Amended OOC. Mr. Lingham asked about soil borings. Ms. Van Lancker stated that EPA should have that information.

Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Narayana to issue an Amended OOC. Motion passed 5-0-0

8:05 Review of the January 28, 2019, Meeting Minutes
The Commission reviewed the Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2019.

Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wands to accept the January 28, 2019, Meeting Minutes as amended. Motion passed 4-0-1. K.G. Narayana abstained.

8:21 Review of the January 31, 2019, Meeting Minutes
The Commission reviewed the Meeting Minutes from January 31, 2019.

Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wands to accept the January 31, 2019, Meeting Minutes as written. Motion passed 4-0-1. K.G. Narayana abstained.

8:22 Member Prerogative
Mr. Hakansson spoke about a liaison for Eversource, as was suggested by Mr. Rob Scherer (Selectmen) at a previous meeting. Mr. Hakansson spoke about the scope of the project, and
the challenges the Commission faces with the Chair and Vice Chair needing to recuse themselves from the Eversource hearings.

Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wands, to appoint Mr. Hakansson as a liaison to work with the Town Government to generate conservation considerations regarding the pipeline. Motion Passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Van Lancker spoke about the CPA and Affordable Housing Trust. She mentioned that an article was proposed to give funds to Affordable Housing Trust at the previous Town Meeting, but was pulled. She also stated that CPA will not be moving forward with this at the present time.

Mr. Hakansson briefly mentioned that there are two alternative routes that are in the NOI filing for Eversource. Mr. Hakansson further explained the wetland resource impacts, and focused on the large wetland systems at Ashland State Park. Mr. Hakansson stated that the project has a large impact on safety. The Commission briefly spoke about the concerns they have in relation to the project and their jurisdiction. Wildlife habitat impacts, inaccuracy of the wetland delineation, and an exposed pipe were discussed. The Commission stated that their concerns are:

- the exposed pipe off of Wayside Lane;
- impacts to Willow Swamp located across from the Kidde Fenwal building at 400 Main Street, and running to the dike at the Ashland State Park, and alternatives to approaches rather than direct impacts to this resource area;
- Wetland delineation as it missed an area near West Union Street, and Indian Spring Road.

Mr. Lingham also spoke about abandoning the pipe in place.

9:28 Sign Documents
OOC Amended OOC 95-849, Town of Ashland, Riverwalk, Riverwalk Project, properties off of Sudbury Road, Pine Hill Road, and Ponderosa Road, and 24 Sudbury Road

9:29 Adjournment
Mr. Hakansson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Van Lancker to adjourn the meeting.
Motion passed 5-0-0.

Documents Reviewed by the Conservation Commission on 2/11/2019
- Conservation Commission Agenda 2-11-2019
- Document entitled, Meeting Minutes 1/28/2019
- Document entitled, Meeting Minutes 1/31/2019
- Plans entitled, Pedestrian Bridge over Sudbury Inlet, by Green International Affiliates, Inc., and dated 11/7/2018
- Letter entitled Dear Conservation Commission, from Michael Herbert (Town Manager) regarding the long span bridge at Riverwalk, and dated 1/31/2019
- Document entitled, Amended Special Conditions, 95-849, Riverwalk.