



# Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING MINUTES  
ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
February 11, 2019

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- 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.

43 Ms. Van Lancker asked about silt accumulations from driving the posts into the riverbed. Ms.  
44 Card explained that they will not be doing any excavating, and that it will naturally resettle  
45 after the posts are driven in.

46  
47 The Commission asked further details on materials used, and general construction for the long  
48 span bridge. The Commission also asked about coating of the pilings and if they need to be  
49 applied after a certain time period. Ms. Card stated that they will need to be coated again in the  
50 future, and that they would be applied only during low flow periods. Ms. Card also explained  
51 that given low fluctuations in the water level, rot is not a concern as you would only see it on  
52 posts exposed to constant fluctuations in water level. Ms. Van Lancker stated that coatings  
53 should be environmentally friendly and that a condition should be added in the Order of  
54 Conditions. Mr. Lingham suggested that another condition be added regarding a turbidity  
55 curtain. Ms. Spicer spoke about permits needed from federal and state agencies.

56  
57 The Commission opened the hearing to abutters. Only one abutter was present. Mr. Ray  
58 Trainor of 84 Sudbury Road asked questions as it relates to EPA/ DEP jurisdiction. Mr.  
59 Trainor also asked about decking, fasteners used, and other materials used for the installation  
60 of the long span bridge. Mr. Trainor asked about winter time maintenance. Ms. Ball stated  
61 that the trail would be open to snow shoeing/cross country skiing, but that it would not be  
62 plowed. Mr. Trainor asked if an Emergency Safety Plan is in place if something goes wrong,  
63 and asked about funding and who pays for unforeseen circumstances. Ms. Card spoke about  
64 the warranty from the company, and Ms. Ball explained bonds.

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

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

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

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75 **8:05 Review of the January 28, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

76 The Commission reviewed the Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2019.

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

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81 **8:21 Review of the January 31, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

82 The Commission reviewed the Meeting Minutes from January 31, 2019.

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

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87 **8:22 Member Prerogative**

88 Mr. Hakansson spoke about a liaison for Eversource, as was suggested by Mr. Rob Scherer  
89 (Selectmen) at a previous meeting. Mr. Hakansson spoke about the scope of the project, and

90 the challenges the Commission faces with the Chair and Vice Chair needing to recuse  
91 themselves from the Eversource hearings.

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

96  
97 Ms. Van Lancker spoke about the CPA and Affordable Housing Trust. She mentioned  
98 that an article was proposed to give funds to Affordable Housing Trust at the previous  
99 Town Meeting, but was pulled. She also stated that CPA will not be moving forward  
100 with this at the present time.

101  
102 Mr. Hakansson briefly mentioned that there are two alternative routes that are in the NOI filing  
103 for Eversource. Mr. Hakansson further explained the wetland resource impacts, and focused  
104 on the large wetland systems at Ashland State Park. Mr. Hakansson stated that the project has  
105 a large impact on safety. The Commission briefly spoke about the concerns they have in  
106 relation to the project and their jurisdiction. Wildlife habitat impacts, inaccuracy of the  
107 wetland delineation, and an exposed pipe were discussed. The Commission stated that their  
108 concerns are:

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

115  
116 Mr. Lingham also spoke about abandoning the pipe in place.  
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118 **9:28 Sign Documents**

119 OOC Amended OOC 95-849, Town of Ashland, Riverwalk, Riverwalk Project, properties  
120 off of Sudbury Road, Pine Hill Road, and Ponderosa Road, and 24 Sudbury Road  
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122 **9:29 Adjournment**

123 Mr. Hakansson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Van Lancker to adjourn the meeting.  
124 Motion passed 5-0-0.  
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126 **Documents Reviewed by the Conservation Commission on 2/ 11 / 2019**

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