



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 25, 2019

1
2 Present: Jeff Lingham
3 Carl Hakansson
4 Cathy Van Lancker
5 Greg Wands
6 K.G. Narayana
7
8 Maeghan Dos Anjos (Agent)
9
10 Absent: Gene Crouch (Chair)
11 William Moulton (Vice Chair)
12

13 **Call to order: 7:09 P.M.**
14

15 Mr. Lingham called the meeting to order. The meeting was broadcast live on WACA-TV.
16

17 **7:09 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program**

18 The Agent discussed a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program. The Agent stated
19 that the program is a status for cities and towns within the Commonwealth. The status from the
20 program is recommended as some state grant applications receive more points if the status is
21 from the town. The program allows communities to assess climate change resiliency, and for
22 implementing some projects.
23

24 **7:13 Review of the March 11, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

25 The Commission reviewed the Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2019.
26

27 Mr. Narayana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lingham, to accept the March 11, 2019,
28 Meeting Minutes as amended. Motion passed 5-0-0.
29

30 **7:15 95-926, NOI/SMP, Eversource Hopkinton to Ashland Transfer Line, gas line**
31 **replacement from Hardwick Rd to Cedar St continued from 2/25/2019**

32 Mr. Richard Paquette (Representative- TRC), Mr. Matthew Waldrip (Applicant- Eversource),
33 Mr. Sean Berthiaume (Applicant- Eversource), and Mr. Jack Lopes (Applicant- Eversource)
34 were present for the hearing.
35

36 Mr. Paquette stated that revised documents were submitted, and included revised plans, cover
37 letter, and supplemental information for the Stormwater Management Permit. Mr. Paquette
38 explained the project as a replacement project for the gas existing gas line. He further
39 explained that the pipe would be increased in size (from six inches to 12 inches).
40

41 Mr. Paquette said that Eversource has identified pressure drop that limits the company's ability
42 to serve the demand. The easement is 20 feet wide throughout the Town, except for in the

43 Ashland State Park where it is 30 feet wide. The length of the pipe in Ashland to be replaced
44 is 2.76 Miles. Mr. Paquette stated that the line crosses through wetlands and a NOI and SMP
45 was filed with the Ashland Conservation Commission, because of the area of disturbance.

46
47 Mr. Lingham asked about the scheduling of the project. Mr. Paquette said that a phased
48 approach is proposed and work will take place over the span of five years, during construction
49 summer months. Mr. Paquette said that the line starts at Pennock Road, and explained the
50 location of the pipe by way of streets and roads within Ashland.

51
52 Mr. Hakansson asked about the “Preferred Route” versus the “Alternative Route”. Mr.
53 Paquette explained that a petition is being documented and reviewed by the EFSB [Energy
54 Facilities Siting Board], and that the Town of Ashland has filed for Intervenor Status. The
55 EFSB requires alternative routes. Mr. Paquette further explained the differences between the
56 two routes.

57
58 Mr. Lingham stated that one thing that the Commission has spoken about is the peer review,
59 which will be a discussion for later on tonight.

60
61 Mr. Narayana asked if people in Ashland will be effected. Mr. Berthiaume said that the line
62 provides gas to other communities, and that customers are noticing a drop given other gas
63 providers, so the project is a resiliency project. Mr. Berthiaume further stated that no one in
64 Ashland will lose service during construction.

65
66 Mr. Paquette stated that revisions were given to the Conservation Commission based on
67 comments from previous Conservation Commission hearings on this project. Mr. Paquette
68 reviewed the responses to comments.

69
70 Mr. Narayana further asked about impacts to the Town of Ashland. Mr. Paquette stated that
71 there will be no impacts to Ashland.

72
73 Mr. Lingham asked if there are other projects of this scale that are currently being worked on,
74 because one concern is how Eversource will be able to do work within a 20 foot wide
75 easement. Mr. Berthiaume stated that there is no similar projects taking place, but there may
76 be photographs available from a project that was done 20 years ago.

77
78 Mr. Waldrip stated that the line was put in the ground in the 1950s, and that current
79 technology, construction methods, and other measures provided Eversource with the
80 confidence that they can do the work within the easement.

81
82 Mr. Hakansson stated that Eversource checked off on the Limited Project section within the
83 Notice of Intent. He said that Eversource needs to have alternatives if filing as a limited
84 project. Mr. Waldrip clarified that this was only in the case of when projects are not in front
85 of the EFSB.

86
87 Mr. Hakansson also spoke about a site walk that he did along the right of way, and asked
88 Eversource if they are aware of an exposed pipe off of Old Country Path/ Wayside Lane area.
89 Mr. Waldrip stated that the Ashland Police Chief, the Ashland Fire Chief, and the Department

90 of Public Utilities have been notified. Mr. Waldrip stated that it is not an immediate concern,
91 and believes it is from erosion by the stream. Mr. Waldrip explained that the carrying capacity
92 of the bank is not impacted, and the bank is stable. Mr. Berthiaume said that Eversource is
93 aware of the exposed pipe.

94
95 Mr. Hakansson asked about the Order of Taking when the easement was created. Mr.
96 Hakansson gave the Taking document to Eversource. He stated that the Taking Document
97 shows that there should only be one pipe, and should be buried, and would not be at a depth
98 that would not interfere with cultivation of the land. Mr. Hakansson stated that he thinks that
99 this current NOI is not compliant of the Taking Document, given that one pipe would be
100 abandoned in place, and another would be installed. Mr. Berthiaume said that this is new
101 information for them. Mr. Waldrip said that they would give it to Eversource's counsel.

102
103 Mr. Waldrip spoke about the Environmental Impact Report. Mr. Hakansson stated that the
104 comments were generic, and that the purpose of the EIR is for environmental protection. Mr.
105 Waldrip explained the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act process. Mr. Hakansson
106 emphasized on the impacts to the wildlife and habitat.

107
108 Mr. Hakansson displayed an exhibit outlining the wetland system within the Ashland State
109 Park in the area of work. Mr. Hakansson explained that the NOI lists impacts to wetlands of
110 over 9,000 square feet; however, the work in the state park may actually impact about 43
111 Acres, as the wetland system extends toward Main Street across from the Kidde Fenwal
112 building.

113
114 Ms. Van Lancker inquired about how they would cross the streams, and wetlands. Mr.
115 Waldrip, and Mr. Paquette described the use of swamp mats, daming of the stream, and
116 restoration of the stream bed in response to Ms. Van Lancker's question. Filter bags were also
117 discussed.

118
119 Mr. Lingham asked for the public to state their comments.

120
121 Mr. Mark Dassoni (49 Hawthorne Road) asked about the gas line, and how it is located. Mr.
122 Berthiaume responded about the tools used to locate the pipe. Mr. Dassoni asked about how
123 the line will be safely transferred. Mr. Berthiaume stated that the pressure in the existing line
124 would be reduced using redundant stoppers.

125
126 Mr. Robin Hicks (11 Frankland Route) stated his concerns about the route itself, in terms of the
127 crossing of Cold Spring Brook and impacts to wetlands.

128
129 Mr. Joel Arbeitman (28 Woodridge Lane) asked whom the pipeline would serve. Mr.
130 Berthiaume stated that the pipeline serves 19,000 customers within six communities.

131
132 Mr. Rob Scherer (41 Bay Colony Drive) said that he is on the Board of Selectmen, and the
133 BOS filed an Intervenor Status. The EFSB number is EFSB_18-02. He asked abutters if a
134 public discussion would be helpful.

135

136 Ms. Debra Enos (19 Thurstone Lane) asked about public forums, and where are these
137 meetings.
138

139 Ms. Roberta Soolman (28 Woodridge Lane) stated that she is troubled by what Mr. Hakansson
140 stated regarding impacts to the wetland systems for this work.
141

142 Mr. David Foster (95 Metropolitan Avenue) stated that the project has been under the radar,
143 and that he has problems with this. Mr. Foster is concerned about the impacts to wildlife as he
144 lives within an animal corridor. He stated that when the RTD (apartment complex off of
145 MBTA Access Road, known as “Cirrus Apartments”) was constructed, he noticed a higher
146 level of animal traffic. Mr. Foster said that he is concerned that the pipeline will cause greater
147 impacts to the wildlife. Mr. Foster stated that the pipeline crosses his back yard and that he is
148 not interested in this project. He also stated that the “Preferred Route” is difficult to
149 understand given that there is an alternative route. He further stated that he read in the paper
150 that the Department of Public Works, Police and Fire do not recommend the preferred route.
151 Mr. Foster said why should I, a homeowner, be impacted when an alternative route exists?
152

153 Ms. Catherine Rooney (136 Fountain Street) stated some concerns as well.
154

155 The Commission reviewed the proposals from the peer review of this work. [Note that most of
156 the abutters left when the Commission started reviewing the proposals.]
157

158 Mr. Waldrip stated that the only concern that Eversource has is the outside review of the Army
159 Corps of Engineers permits. He stated that Eversource prefers Lucas Environmental as they
160 are working with the Town of Hopkinton for this replacement line.
161

162 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wands to select Lucas Environmental,
163 LLC, for the peer review scope for the Eversource NOI/SMP. Motion passed 5-0-0.
164

165 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Narayana to continue the hearing to April
166 22, 2019. Motion passed 5-0-0.
167

168 **9:57 Review draft OOC 95-927, Andrew Puntini, 270 Cordaville Road**

169 The Commission reviewed the draft OOC for Andrew Puntini at 270 Cordaville Road.
170

171 Ms. Van Lancker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wands to issue the OOC as discussed.
172 Motion passed 5-0-0.
173

174 **10:24 Member Prerogative**

175 Mr. Lingham and Mr. Narayana stated their vacation days.
176

177 **10:04 Sign Documents**

178 OOC 95-927, Andrew Puntini, 270 Cordaville Road, after-the-fact addition,
179 and carport
180

181 **8:28 Adjournment**

182 Mr. Narayana made a motion, seconded by Ms. Van Lancker to adjourn the meeting.

183 Motion passed 5-0-0.

184

185 **Documents Reviewed by the Conservation Commission on 3/ 25 / 2019**

186

- Conservation Commission Agenda 3-25-2019

187

- Document entitled, *Meeting Minutes 3/11/2019*

188

- Document entitled, *Eversource Energy- Hopkinton to Ashland Transfer Line Replacement Project (DEP File No. 95-926)*, dated March 19, 2019

189

Document entitled, *Request to Extend OOC #95-878, Rail Transit Apartments, MBTA Access Road*, dated February 28, 2019. Submitted by Eversource and TRC.

190

191

- Document entitled, *Stormwater Management Permit Application*, dated March 2019, submitted by Eversource and TRC.

192

193

- Document entitled, *Response to Ashland Conservation Commission Comments (MassDEP File #95-926)*, dated March 19, 2019

194

195

- Revised plans entitled, *Eversource Energy- Hopkinton to Ashland Transfer Line Replacement Project Towns of Hopkinton and Ashland Middlesex County, Massachusetts*, filed by Eversource and TRC, dated March 19, 2019

196

197

198