

LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION (LCC) MEETING
Town Hall Auditorium - May 10, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Racheal Stuart.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Margaret Hobbs, Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Troy Merner, Nancy Southworth, Racheal Stuart.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Eversource and Stantec representatives, Town Manager Ben Gaetjens-Oleson and public.

Stuart announced resignations of LCC members Eric Livingstone and Rob Christie. Thanked both for their service including Christie's multi-year efforts and the recently completed Natural Resource Inventory.

Self-introductions of LCC members and those in audience.

2021 ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chair: Racheal Stuart

Vice Chair & Treasurer: Kathy-Jean Lavoie

Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Southworth

R. Christie suggested the COVID-19 guidelines be read. Stuart stated that the Governor lifted the emergency order, therefore it isn't necessary to read the COVID-19 emergency statement.

Hobbs motioned to approve the 2021 slate of officers. Merner seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from April 12, and April 26, 2021 meetings. Brief discussion regarding concerns of 4/12 minutes and late receipt of 4/26 minutes.

Lavoie motioned to postpone approval of 4/12 and 4/26 minutes until June 14 meeting. Southworth seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

APPOINTMENT:

Lauren Cote, Project Manager of Outreach Eversource presented *Lancaster Briefing May 2021 Whitefield to Northumberland Line Rebuild Project (Maintenance Project) Existing D142 Line/Corridor Overview*

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Stuart reminded all that this presentation is a clarification about the process. It is not a full meeting on this project.

Ms. Cote provided a brief overview of the project and answered clarifying questions. Eversource representative Catalina Celentano distributed a copy of the Power Point presentation and a two-page overview to the commission members.

The project is needed to increase reliability risk due to degraded structures and outdated communications. Additionally, aging infrastructure is less resilient and could fail if stressed which could result in safety issues or electric outages. Also, less reliable communication wire between substations could make it more difficult to identify abnormalities and isolate failures, which could lead to outages.

The project scope is "essentially a replacement of the existing transmission line". Will remove or replace wooden H-frame structures that are over 70- years old with a new weathering steel H-frame structures. Project Benefits include improved power system reliability, structures more resilient and no susceptible to woodpecker damage, insect damage or pole rot.

Lancaster scope was outlined. There are 63 structures located in Lancaster. 79% of the structures (50) will increase less than 15 feet. Only two of the structures that are increasing over 15 feet are within 500 feet of a local residence.

An overview of timeline for line rebuild project was provided and ultimately will be determined pending necessary permits and approvals. Outreach efforts were described including project information letters, field outreach, a project webpage and project hotline. Ms. Cote noted Eversource was working to schedule a future public meeting for a more in-depth question and answer opportunity for members of the public and other Town boards.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Review current NHDES matters:

None

Treasurer's Report:

Stuart distributed the annual operating Year-to-Date Budget vs. Actual for the end of April. This year's budget is \$6,000. \$254.34 has been spent to date. Funds remaining are \$5745.66.

Stuart announced LCC members are working in partnership with town staff to learn more about the LCC fund.

Clerk Nomination:

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Stuart reported that Patty Ambrose Pratt is taking minutes tonight. The commission will determine whether to bring her nomination forward for Clerk at June meeting.

Select Board Report (Merner):

None

OLD BUSINESS:

D142 Line review document:

Stuart distributed the LCC working document *Eversource D142 Upgrade Application Review Questions* from the April 12 LCC meeting and April 26 work session. Questions are categorized at based on application, based on map set, general (non-permit) questions, State and Regional questions, potential requests from LCC, other permits applied for state & federal.

Lavoie noted that all questions are important but recommended the LCC document be limited to questions within LCC purview and find out how best to submit the other questions to Eversource.

Commission members reviewed each question to determine whether should remain in the LCC document that will be sent to Eversource.

Stuart motioned to remove questions from the LCC document to Eversource as follows: based on the application #8; based on map set #18; general (non-permit) #24, #26, #30, #35; state & regional #1, #2; and to rework the language of map set questions #10, #11, #14, #35 and to add an additional question related to final sign-off once the project is completed. Lavoie seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Stuart noted that there would be an opportunity for the public to ask Eversource questions at a future public meeting.

Elise Lawson Proposal to Review D142 Line Materials:

Stuart distributed Lawson's *Proposed Options to Examine Wetland Permit Application* dated April 26, 2021.

Southworth motioned to engage Lawson to review the Eversource wetland permit application, existing Lancaster studies, and to write a letter to LCC referencing studies and offering her professional assessment of the application at an expense no greater than \$300. Lavoie seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Rebuild, Mitigation Projects

Stuart motioned to have conversation of mitigation 'shovel-ready' projects during a future meeting. Southworth seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

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Eversource representative Jeremy Fennell informed the commissioners that he had been informed there were no "shovel ready projects" to utilize \$7,754 in local mitigation funds, and the deadline for submitting project ideas had passed. He added that Eversource will continue to consult with the LCC on future opportunities for mitigation funds related to the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Stuart asked for volunteers to join her in a call with Lori Sommer from NHDES. Hobbs and Southworth will participate.

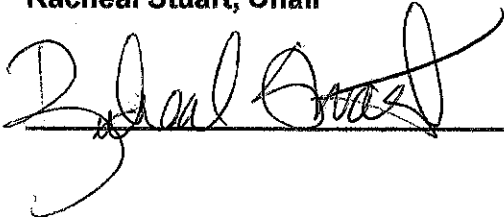
Per Eversource representative, Eversource application expected to be submitted tomorrow (May 11), DES will notify town and then town has two weeks to approve.

Noting that there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion was called for to adjourn.

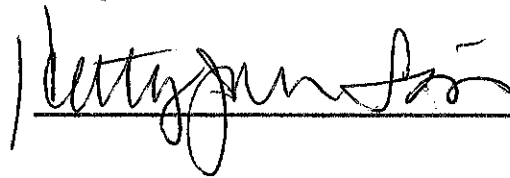
Merner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Hobbs seconded. A vote was taken, and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Approved: June 10, 2021

Racheal Stuart, Chair

Handwritten signature of Racheal Stuart in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Vice-Chair

Handwritten signature of Kathy-Jean Lavoie in black ink, written over a horizontal line.