

LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION (LCC) MEETING
Weeks State Park and Wesson Road – June 21, 2021

Meeting was called to order at the Weeks State Park Summit parking lot at 10:09 a.m. by Racheal Stuart.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Troy Merner

OTHERS PRESENT: Sam Harris, Lauren Cote, Catalina Celentano, Roy Fruit (Eversource), Tom Tetreau (Stantec Engineering), Kate Hartnett and Crosby Peck (members of the public)

Self-introductions of LCC members and those attendance.

NEW BUSINESS: Eversource D142 Line Upgrade Wetlands Permit Application Site Visit

Stuart outlined the objectives of the meeting: For LCC to better understand the D142 line upgrade construction process, to share with Eversource and representatives our concerns and questions, and to develop a working relationship between LCC and the Eversource team.

Peck shared his concerns about the potential visual impacts of taller towers withing sight of his business, Rogers Campground. Eversource representatives clarified the pole design and Cote agreed to follow up with additional information to Peck.

The group walked to the North Overlook to view the path of the D142 Line to Northumberland and discuss issues of concern to the Commission and members of the public, specifically impacts to the Page Hill/Burnside Brook wetlands, contractor oversight and monitoring, construction schedule, and techniques, mitigation and anticipating extreme rain events.

The group then drove down the auto road to the East Overlook to view the path of the D142 Line to Whitefield and discuss issues of concern to the Commission and members of the public, specifically pole heights, comparable projects (e.g., S136 Line in Whitefield), sparsely located invasives, calculation of mitigation funds for non-natural wetlands, potential conflicts of interest with environmental monitors working for construction contractors and/or Eversource and potential for increased unauthorized use with upgraded access to ROW.

The group then drove to the D142 Line crossing at Wesson Road and discussed issues of concern to the Commission and members of the public, specifically scheduling construction to accommodate seasonal osprey nesting, construction of upland gravel access roads and how Eversource can work with landowners to set up barriers to unauthorized access post-construction, and variables influencing the year+ long construction process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTED TO THE COMMISSION: None

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OTHER BUSINESS: None

Meeting adjourned at 12:40


Respectfully Submitted, Racheal Stuart, LCC Chair

Approved:

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 blue ink, written over a horizontal line.