



Town of West Boylston
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

:

Monday, 1/8/2024 6:00p.m./ MEETINGS TAKING PLACE AT WEST BOYLSTON TOWN HALL, LAND USE MEETING ROOM, #120

Members Present
Members NOT Present
Invited Guests

William Chase (Chair), Carl Haarmann (Vice-Chair), Colin Cahill and Emily Eaton and Clerk Toby Goldstein

Jeffrey Perkins (Associate Member)

N/A

Welcome – Call to Order

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of 12/11/23 Meeting

Motion Originator Emily Eaton

Motion Seconded Colin Cahill

Treasurer – Financial Report

Mr. Chase reviewed the report prior to the meeting; he briefly discussed with board this evening.

Motion to Accept N/A

Seconded N/A

At 6:00 pm, Ms. Eaton made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Haarmann seconded. All in favor. Mr. Chase called the meeting to order.

Public Hearing, New England Power Company (d/b/a National Grid), Request for Determination of Applicability, for the O141/P142 Flyover Switch Installation Project at 196 Temple Street, West Boylston, MA:

(Jason Tome represented, on behalf of New England Power Company). (Ms. Eaton read aloud the public hearing notice). Showing the board a map of the site, he explained that the proposed project was to install flyover switch structures to allow control of electricity along the existing electrical circuits during future operation and

maintenance activities. He noted that the reason for this RDA is that the flyover switch structure would be within 200 feet of the buffer zone of a stream. He described that the installation process involves making of a five-foot diameter hole, 13-feet deep, with 20 square feet of proposed permanent impact of the flyover switch structure. He showed the board potential temporary impacts on the map to wetland buffer and stream buffer. Mr. Tome replied to Mr. Chase that they already have existing roads in place; they are highlighted on the map and he said that they lead to the flyover switch structures. He responded to Ms. Eaton that there is an existing power line 83 is just north of it, and that will remain but this will just be an add-on to the line. Mr. Chase added that the others are just manual terminals but this one will be remote.

Mr. Tome showed the board a photo of what the flyover structure will look like. He noted the 20 square feet of permanent impact. He noted that the work will be in compliance with National Grid’s Environmental Guidance Manual (EGE 303 ME), which has best management practices to minimize any adverse effects on any of the resources. There will be an environmental inspector who will conduct periodic inspections for compliance with the EGE 303 ME. He asserted that permanent impacts will be minimal to the 200-foot resource area and any remaining disturbances will be temporary, therefore they are requesting that the Conservation Commission issue a negative determination for this project.

With no further comments or questions, Mr. Haarmann made a motion to issue a negative determination. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of December 11, 2023 Meeting: After review of the draft minutes by the board members, Ms. Eaton made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Cahill seconded. All in favor.

Next Scheduled Meeting: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M., AT TOWN HALL, ROOM #120.

Treasurer/Financial Report: Mr. Chase discussed this briefly with the board.

Miscellaneous Mail and/or Paperwork Including Correspondence from DCR, DEP and MACC: There was no mail or paperwork that Mr. Chase needed to discuss with the board this evening.

With no further discussion taking place, Mr. Haarmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m. Ms. Eaton seconded. All in favor.

Submitted by: _____

Reviewed by: _____

Date submitted: _____

