DEERFIELD PLANNING BOARD
DEERFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

MINUTES OF MEETING
PRESENT: Board members Peter Schibbelhute, Robert Cote, Selectmen's Representative Fred McGarry. Also present Sylvia von Aulock,SNHPC, and Jane Boucher , secretary.

7PM Chair Peter Schibbelhute called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST
Fred McGarry moved to approve the manifest (time sheet for Jane Boucher). Robert Cote seconded. Voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The following corrections were made to the minutes of September 9.
Page 2 Paragraph 1 Add " He also asked that the old wetland setbacks be allowed as the 100' requirement"
Page 2 Last Paragraph Correct to read "...move the Master Plan line..."

No action was taken on approval of the minutes as only two of the members present were at the September 9 meeting. Approval will be on the agenda for October 14.

2021 BUDGET
Board members agreed to add the "Master Plan" as a special project to the PB Consultant Budget Line. There is a balance of $2,000 in the line and members agreed to increase it to $10,000. Fred McGarry moved to increase the PB Consultant Budget line to $10,000 by adding $8,000. Robert Cote seconded., Voted in favor.

Fred McGarry noted that the Board should also be reviewing the Impact Fee schedule.

7:25PM APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING; CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT/EVERSOURCE ENERGY
Lindsay White,GZA Geoenvironmental, and Jeni Mendez, Eversource Energy, were present via zoom.

Chair Peter Schibbelhute read the Notice of Public Hearing for Eversource Energy to consider an application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Eversource Energy 13 Legends Drive, Hooksett, NH for property located in Deerfield, NH (373 Transmission Line ROW). Eversource Energy is proposing to replace select utility poles and optical ground wire along the existing and maintained 373 Transmission Line ROW corridor. The proposed maintenance work will require temporary wetland

impacts to the Wetland Conservation District for access and work pad replacement.

Lindsay White reviewed the application for the Board. A copy of the application is attached to these minutes.

Robert Cote asked if she could explain what the optical ground wire portion of the project represents. Is that going to be optical cable placed along the ledge.

Ms White replied that it would be above ground.

Jeni Mendez said we have two potentially ways two run the wire, one is via helicopter and the other will actually clip the new wire on the old wire The old wire will be rolled out.

Chair Schibbelhute questioned the time frame for the work.

Jeni Mendez replied they would like to start the in the middle or end of October and will take one to two months.

Sylvia von Aulock questioned how long the helicopter work would take

Jeni Mendez replied that will be done in segments. Probably about a month's time intermittently.

Errol Rhodes was present via zoom and questioned how many trips the helicopter would make.

Jeni Mendez replied she was not sure but would check and advise.

Fred McGarry moved to Grant Conditional Approval. At this time Robert Cote noted that the Board did not yet vote on accepting the application. Mr. McGarry withdrew his motion.

Robert Cote moved to accept the application for a CUP from Eversource Energy. Fred McGarry seconded. Voted in favor.

Fred McGarry moved to grant conditional approval to Eversource Energy for a CUP for the 373 Transmission Line Ground Wire and Structure Replacement Project with the following conditions:
. $5000.00 deposit to be put in escrow for Engineering Review by Keach Nordstrom
.$20,000 Bond Restoration for wetlands.
. Preliminary Meeting with Keach Nordstrom
Robert Cote seconded. Voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8PM.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Boucher
Pending Approval by the Planning Board

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September 1, 2020 File
No. 04.0190999.25

Town of Deerfield
Planning Board
Attn: Peter Schibbelhute, Chairman
8 Raymond Road
Deerfield, New Hampshire 03037

Re: Conditional Use Permit Application
Eversource Energy
373 Transmission Line Optical Ground Wire and Structure Replacement Project
Deerfield, New Hampshire

Dear Chairman Schibbelhute:

This letter transmits a Conditional Use Permit Application on behalf of Public Service Company of New Hampshire doing business as Eversource Energy (Eversource), for the 373 Transmission Line Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) and Structure Replacement Project (see attached **Figure 1 - Locus Plan**). On behalf of Eversource, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (GZA) is requesting consideration of a Conditional Use Permit Application for required impacts within the Town of Deerfield Wetlands Conservation District.

The proposed project involves the replacement of select 373 Transmission Line structures (i.e., utility poles) due to the addition of OPGW wire. OPGW is proposed to replace existing static wire which will improve the transmission line by serving to shield conductor wires below it from lightning and serve as a telecommunications path for internal and third-party communications. When modeled with OPGW wire replacement specifications, it was determined that these structures needed to be replaced in order to continue to function safely and reliably once the OPGW wire is installed.

The 373 Transmission Line is located within an existing 270-foot wide utility right-of-way (ROW) that also includes the 391 Transmission Line. In the Town of Deerfield, the proposed work area begins just south of Brown Road and continues approximately 3.8 miles to the Deerfield Substation off Cate Road.

Tighe and Bond delineated wetlands in 2018 and GZA reviewed wetland boundaries in 2019. In addition, GZA will be submitting a separate wetland permit through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for the proposed project in Deerfield.

In total, four utility poles are proposed to be replaced in Deerfield along the 373 Transmission Line (see **Figure 2 – Access and Permitting Plans**). The utility structures will on average be between 5 to 10 feet higher than the existing utility structures due to updated National Electrical Safety Code requirements for line clearance and to account for topographical changes. In addition, there are two structures proposed for OPGW fiber

pulling in the Town of Deerfield, Structures 168 and 204. The OPGW fiber pull requires access and a small work pad around the structure for a bucket truck to be stationed.

In the Town of Deerfield, the proposed project requires approximately 19,810 sq. ft. of temporary wetland impact to predominantly palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands that are located within the existing and maintained utility ROW for construction access and work pad placement (see **Table 1**). Timber matting will be used within wetlands to minimize and prevent rutting and compaction. Upon completion of work, timber mats will be removed and temporarily disturbed wetlands will be restored by seeding and mulching. Upland access routes and work pads will be improved using gravel and stone as necessary to provide safe access and work areas for utility pole replacements. Structure locations and construction access were closely reviewed in the field during the design of the project to minimize impacts in the Wetland Conservation District. Wherever possible, access is proposed using existing access routes to limit disturbance to natural wetlands.

Table 1 – Summary of wetlands and associated temporary wetland impacts.

Wetland ID	Classification	Temporary Wetland Impact (SF)
DW-33	PSS1/EM1	-
DW-34	PSS1E	-
DW-35	PEM1E/FO1E/SS1E/UB3	3,419
DW-36	PEM1E/SS1E	4,764
DW-37	PSS1E	731
DW-38	PSS1	2,854
DW-39	PSS1/EM1	4,205
DW-40	PSS/PEM1	967
DW-41	PSS1E/PEM1E	-
DW-42	PSS1	-
DW-43	PSS/PEM1E	-
DW-44	PSS1E/PEM1E/R4SB	-
DW-45	PSS1E	-
DW-46	PSS1E/PEM1E	-
DW-47	PSS1E	-
DW-48	PSS1E	-
DW-49	PSS1E	-
DW-50	PEM1C	-
DW-51	PEM1E	-
DW-52	PSS1E/PEM1E	-
DW-53	PEM1C	-
DW-54	PEM1F/SS1E	-
DW-55	PSS1C/EM1C	-
DW-56	PSS1E	177
DW-57	PSS1E	-
DW-58	PEM1C	-
DW-59	PSS1E	2,586
DW-60	PSS1E	-
DW-61	PEM1A	-
DW-62	PSS1E	-
DW-63	PSS1E/PEM1E	-
DW-64	PSS1E/PEM1E	-
DW-65	PSS1E	-

DW-66	PSS1E	-
DW-67	PSS1E	-
DW-68	PSS1E	-
DW-69	PSS1E/EM1F	-
DW-70	PSS1E/PEM1E	-
DW-71	PEM1	-
DW-72	PEM1/SS1	107
DW-73	PSS1E/PEM1E	-
DW-74	PSS1E/PEM1E	-
DW-75	PEM1	-
DW-76	PEM1	-
DW-77	PEM1	-
DW-78	PEM1/PUB	-
DW-79	PEM1/SS1	-
DW-80	PEM1/SS1	-

(1) Key to classifications:
P = palustrine wetland system
UB = unconsolidated bottom
3 = mud
SS = scrub-shrub
1 = broad-leaved deciduous
EM = emergent
1=persistent

R = riverine system
SB = streambed
UB = unconsolidated bottom

Modifiers:
b = beaver
A = temporarily flooded
B = saturated
C = seasonally flooded
E = saturated or seasonally flooded
H = permanently flooded
F = semi-permanently flooded
0

In accordance with *Article 210.7 of the Deerfield Zoning Ordinance*, a Conditional Use Permit may be issued by the Planning Board for the construction of roads and other access ways for pipelines, power lines and other transmission lines provided that all of the following conditions are found to exist:

A. ***The proposed construction is essential to the productive use of land not within the Wetlands Conservation District.*** The project proposes to maintain the 373 Transmission Line, located within an existing and maintained ROW. The proposed maintenance within the Wetlands Conservation District will enhance the 373 Transmission Line by adding communication capabilities between substations with the addition of OPGW wire which will, in turn, increase the stability and reliability of the transmission system. The utility structures will be replaced in their current alignment, and there is no expansion of the existing ROW or installation of new utility lines. As a result, the proposed project is necessary for the productive use of land within the existing and maintained ROW.

Design and construction methods will be such as to minimize detrimental impact upon the wetlands and will include restoration of the site as nearly as possible to its original gradient condition. The access for the project has been sited to avoid areas within wetlands to the greatest extent practicable. Proposed impacts have been avoided in Wetlands DW-41, DW-50, DW-51, DW-57, DW-73, and DW-74. In addition, the project utilizes existing access routes within the ROW to limit and prevent new disturbance to the greatest extent. Where access routes temporarily cross a wetland, the proposed project has been designed to minimize temporary wetland impacts by using wetland matting. Matting will be temporarily placed in a narrow section of the wetland where practicable and within existing access routes in order to provide appropriate access and prevent

rutting. Prior to work, erosion controls (e.g. straw wattle, silt fence) will be installed to limit and prevent sedimentation in wetlands and will be monitored during construction. Temporary wetland impacts will be restored upon completion of work by seeding with native/naturalized seed mixes and mulching temporarily disturbed areas with weed-free straw. Eversource has retained GZA to complete regular erosion control inspections during construction and provide guidance to the contractor to maintain compliance with local, state, and federal environmental permits. In addition, GZA will coordinate with the contractor to help ensure best management practices (BMPs) are followed in order to protect rare, threatened, and/or endangered species during construction. In 2019, the Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) identified records of northern black racer (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*), Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), and spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) within the general vicinity. Coordination with NHB and NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) for the proposed project is ongoing. As typically required by the NHFG, any observed turtles or snakes will be documented and safely relocated off access roads.

After construction activities are complete, temporary wetland impact areas will be restored using a native seed mix and mulched with straw for stabilization. Erosion controls will be removed when adjacent areas are stabilized.

B. ***No alternative route, which does not cross a wetland or has less detrimental impact on the wetland is feasible.*** As previously mentioned, impacts were avoided and minimized to the greatest extent practicable by utilizing existing access roads and avoiding unnecessary impacts to wetlands by placing structures outside of wetland boundaries where possible. Timber matting will be used where wetlands must be crossed to limit and prevent rutting and maintain a buffer between tracked vehicles and wetland vegetation. There are no alternative routes that both provide access to structures and minimize impacts to wetlands.

C. ***Economic advantage alone is not a reason for the proposed construction.*** The proposed project involves replacement of select structures on the 373 Transmission Line due to the addition of OPGW wire which will allow communication between substations. As a result, the proposed project will ultimately ensure greater stability and reliability of the system.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Very truly yours,

GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

Lindsey White

Lindsey E. White, Apprentice Wetland Scientist
Assistant Project Manager

Tracy L. Tarr, CWS, CESSWI
Consultant/Reviewer

Deborah M. Zarta Gier

Deborah M. Zarta Gier, CNRP
Principal

LEW/DMW/TLT: jc
p:\04jobs\0190900s\04.0190999.00 - ee siting permitting 2019-2022\04.0190999.25 - 373 transmission structure replacement project\work\local permitting\deerfield\final eversource 373 opgw deerfield cup narrative 08132020.docx

Attachments:
Site Plan Review Application Form
Photo Log
List of Abutters
Figure 1 – Locus Plan
Figure 2 – Access and Permitting Plans
Figure 3 – NRCS Soils Overlay
Figure 4 - Conservation Land Overlay
Application Fee