

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 4, 2019
MINUTES**

Members Present: Lenore Clark, Chairman, Ed Roundy, Brian Gifford, Art Slocum, Warren Muir, Members, Nancy Byrd, Alternate.

Member Absent: Dan Coons, Vice-Chairman, Dave Senecal, Selectmen's Representative, Sarah Silk, Alternate.

Staff Present: Jim Pineo, Town Manager, Barry Muccio, Director of Municipal Electric Department.

Chairman Clark opened the meeting at 11:15 AM at the site of the Town of Wolfeboro's Pleasant Valley Road Bridge and Culvert project.

I. Discussion Items

a. Heath Brook Conservation Easement (as it relates to the Town of Wolfeboro Bridge & Culvert Project)

Barry Muccio gave the Commission a tour of the site, walking along the north side of the road beginning at the southwestern-most marked tree and heading northeast. He stated the Scenic Road RSA only pertains to trees within 10 feet of the roadway, and only to trees 15" in diameter or more; noting the first marked tree is a large maple and is the only live tree this applies to. Barry stated it will cost more but his Department will avoid removing said tree. There is a large snag close to it that is marked. There was general agreement that no one had an issue with it being taken down.

Warren Muir questioned the objective.

Barry Muccio explained that there will be a large crane on site to install the bridge wing walls, which needs to be 20' away from power lines at a minimum to satisfy OSHA regulations.

Jim Pineo provided the Commission with a brief overview of the project and noted a temporary road will be built on the south side of Pleasant Valley Road to keep traffic flowing during construction. He stated that if the Electric Department were to install the temporary utility poles on that same side of Pleasant Valley Road, there would be a lot of mobilization/demobilization/remobilization of construction equipment, including the crane, resulting in an added project cost of \$240,000.

Barry Muccio agreed and called it a "double move." He pointed out that it's not just the electric lines but also cable lines that are impacted.

Jim Pineo noted the State is paying 80% of the project cost and the Town is responsible for the remaining 20% (via a warrant article).

Note: It was not stated whether that 20% would cover the additional cost or not, or whether the 80% number was a hard dollar amount or was flexible depending on the final cost.

Lenore clarified that a box culvert is proposed.

Jim Pineo stated that by keeping the utility poles on the north side of the road, the project could be done quickly (1-2 weeks).

The Commission was assured there will be a “no touch buffer” around the largest marked tree on property that the Conservation Easement is located (the White Pine located just northeast of Heath Brook). Barry said he could move the stake/utility pole location that is closest to it a little further out (northeast).

Warren Muir requested clarification as to which trees would be cut.

The Commission reviewed a large hardwood that appears to be dying, and generally agreed that it would be ok to cut.

Art Slocum asked if trees would be planted when the project was completed to speed the recovery process.

It was agreed that that such could be done and that it should be done in consultation with the Wentworth Watershed Association. Further discussion occurred regarding the type of trees to be planted and that more mature trees rather than saplings be planted.

The Commission requested the Town Manager provide a written document to the Commission for their meeting on September 5th that states specifically what is being asked of the Commission by the Town (e.g. for the Commission to sign a waiver, etc.).

Barry Muccio took pictures of the large trees that had been marked to cut that are now being protected/preserved (photographs to be available at the September 5th meeting). Jim said this is a “learning experience” for all parties involved, and suggested that in the future, there be mechanisms in place to avoid these issues.

b. Other Business

None.

There being no further business before the Commission, the site visit adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Hendrickson

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***Minutes prepared from notes taken by Lenore Clark*