

**HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

August 13, 2013

Approved at the 10/8/13meeting

PRESENT: Paul Alexanderson, Chair; Gary Pelissier; Steve Szymkowicz; Edwin Matuzsko; Gordon Smith; and Janice Stone, Conservation Staff. Paulette Kuzdeba arrived at 8 PM.

1. 7:00 PM Notice of Intent #170-XXX, filed by BlueWave Capital for installation of a .99 megawatt solar energy generating facility in an agricultural field *off Breckenridge Road*. Mickey Marcus from New England Environmental present as consultant to applicant. Mr. Marcus stated that they are working on three solar projects in town, and this is the first. It is proposed for a field near the gravel pit owned by Karl's Excavating, off Breckenridge Rd. The maximum size of the facility would be 5.45 acres, and less than 1 mw power. There is a wetland in a corner of the woods near the proposed solar facility, identified as BVW since it has a channel running through it. They are proposing to install the fence around the facility just outside the 35-foot buffer zone. See plan. The panels will be within the 100' buffer zone. They will use an existing access road to get to the field, and then create a new one in the field of hard packed gravel. The Planning Board requires a 50' setback from property lines. They have added landscaping along the fence, behind the houses on Huntington Rd. The houses will be at least 250' from the solar array. They will use a short "solar seed mix" for the grass under the solar panels, so that it does not need to get mowed often. The lease is usually 20-30 years, and all leases have a decommissioning plan, with a bond. When they are done, it can all be pulled up and the land reclaimed as farmland. There will be a cutting plan necessary as well, in the buffer zone and in the wetland. Mr. Marcus explained that they will need to do selective cutting of the taller trees to reduce the canopy, and that this cutting will have to continue for the life of the lease, since the whole string of panels goes down if part is shaded. He explained that a tree shades about 2.5 times its height (for example a 50' tree creates about 125' of shade). Most of the tree clearing will be needed on the west side of the wetland and buffer zone. The tree cutting (not trimming) will be in the Operation & Maintenance Plan for the life of the project. He suggested the Commission could require criteria for review of the tree cutting over a certain length of time, such as every 5 years. Commissioners asked about the type of equipment used for the tree cutting, whether they will winch the trees out of the wetland etc. Mr. Marcus said they would not use mechanized equipment, just chain saws, to cut down the trees. They will go in and cut the trees first before installing the panels, so that they can get the tree work done without impacting the panels. There is no DEP file # yet, so hearing will have to be continued. Bruce Griffin did the wetland delineation. John Edwards (audience) suggested a vegetation maintenance plan. Others explained that there are tax incentives for solar projects less than 1 mw. Power lines will follow existing road to Breckenridge. Commission agreed to a site visit on Tuesday August 27th at 4 PM. Edwin made a motion to continue the hearing to September 10th. Gary seconded, and all voted in favor.

2. 7:40 PM Other Business. Right of First Refusal (ROFR) for Chapter 61A property off *Breckenridge Road*. Same property as proposed solar project above. Vote can wait until next meeting.

3. 7:45 PM Discussion. Jung Family and property boundary with USFWS refuge off Mill Valley Rd. Ellen Jung was present. She told Commission they had another survey done of the property line, pretty much agreed with recent USFWS one. The boundaries have been marked and are clear now. They have cleaned up the piles of plant material. They will set the garden back 15 feet from the border, as required under the recorded plan for the Order of Conditions and Conservation Restriction. They will provide the Commission with a copy of the survey when it is completed. Gary made a motion to accept the Jung's proposal, Edwin seconded and all voted in favor. Ms. Jung gave the Commission her telephone number and email address to reach her whenever needed (in Paris). Commissioners discussed funding for two upcoming APR projects, and what to request from CPA on August 26th. Gary made a motion to approve request from CPA Open Space set-aside of \$19,900 for Boisvert-Kelly (*River Dr*), and up to \$6200 for Pirog (*Aqua Vitae Rd*). Pirog value is unknown, Janice is just estimating based on land values in floodway elsewhere in town. Paulette arrived 8 PM for part of CPA discussion. Minutes for June 2013. Gary made the motion, seconded by Paulette, to approve the minutes for June. All voted in favor. Janice and Paul mentioned a possible dock violation off River Drive, but need to see it from the water. Check with Gary for a boat ride up to see it. *Lawrence Plain Road* complaints, with Ted Mieczkowski. Mr. Mieczkowski told the Commission about his neighbor M. Wilson spraying Roundup herbicide along their common fence line, and killing vegetation on his side. He showed photos, and wanted the Commission to do something about his complaint. Janice will write neighbor a letter telling her not to do that again.

4. 8:25 PM ADJOURNMENT. Edwin made the motion to adjourn. Paulette seconded, all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by

Janice Stone

Materials used in review and deliberation of agenda items will be found in corresponding project folder in Conservation Commission office.