

## 02-26-24 Savoy Con Com Meeting Minutes

Dan Harris made a motion to start the meeting at 7:04pm.

- All in favor.

In Attendance:

Savoy Con Com Members: Dan Harris, April LeSage, Cosmo LaViola

Others: Mark Stinson (DEP), Virginia Martel (BSC Group), Christopher LaRose (EverSource)

### EVERSOURCE UTILITY PROJECT:

Virginia Martell – EverSource is looking to modernize the utility poles along Route 116 and 8A. This will necessitate:

- tree cutting and trimming in order to install new poles and upgraded wire
- installation of new poles
- relocation of some poles

Christopher LaRose – Delineations were performed over a few days last summer. As delineations were performed, we shifted poles out of resource areas as much as possible. After the project was redesigned to mitigate impacts, 34 poles were identified as jurisdictional due to either being located within buffer zones that require tree removals, within 10' of resource areas, etc. A couple of poles were in BVWs. Each pole results in about 4 ft<sup>2</sup> of disturbance. They are installed to a depth of 6', backfilled with native soil, and straw wattles with biodegradable netting are placed in a 4' circle around each 24" pole to prevent soil erosion.

Virginia Martell – Trees within 15' or 25' of the electrical lines get trimmed.

Christopher LaRose – When trees are cut the root and base is left and just the bole is taken. What happens with the downed woody material is up to either the property owner, or the Town ConCom and/or EverSource if it's in a resource area.

163 trees are permitted to be removed. There will be more trees in addition to that number as areas of the town are due for regular maintenance cutting. Typically EverSource allows disturbed areas to revegetate on their own; however, they will seed if that is desired by the town. EverSource tends not to bring in top soil.

Mark Stinson – I added my comments to the file number. Those should be reviewed and the file number will be needed when the Con Com writes the Order of Conditions.

Virginia Martell – BSC Group sent the NOI to Mass. Natural Heritage.

The town Con Com would like to include some special conditions in order to compensate for the ecological habitat impacts of the tree cutting, etc. This likely will include some form of planting trees on town land.

Motion made to close the public meeting at 7:32pm by April LeSage

- Seconded by Cosmo LaViola

Motion made by April LeSage to open a meeting to discuss the Order of Conditions and special conditions at 7:33pm.

- Seconded by Cosmo LaViola

The Con Com:

- Accepts the limited permit as is.
- Would like to have EverSource pay a sum of money in lieu of a fee for the work. This fee will be used to do a riverfront planting as outlined in a Conway School of Design Town Park plan and in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act.
  - The Con Com will need to reach out to local contractors to determine the sum of money they would like to request in order to perform this planting.
    - Dan, April and Cosmo will all contact local contractors in order to obtain quotes. Upon obtaining quotes, the Con Com will determine the estimated cost and present their findings to EverSource. The two parties will need to come to an agreement regarding the total.
- Due to needing more time to determine planting contractor costs, etc. the Con Com will postpone establishing the Order of Conditions until their next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, March 11 at 7:00pm.

A motion is made to continue the meeting on March 11 by April LeSage.

- Dan Harris seconded the motion.

#### BEAVER ACTIVITY:

Dan Harris – There has been some beaver activity in the Westfield River adjacent to the floodplain field where the town park pavilion is located. There were concerns that the beavers might be working to dam the river, which could flood the field and cause damage to the town pavilion building. After review there is no imminent danger and concern. No action was taken regarding permitting to remove the beaver.

Agenda set for next meeting.

April made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm.

- All in favor.