

# Hanover Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2023

Hanover Town Hall, 550 Hanover St.

**2nd Floor Meeting Room** and **via Zoom as per instruction above.**

**Approved 10/25/23**



### 6:00 PM

A Roll Call of Members resulted in the following Members being present:

Vice Chairman Lisa Satterwhite, Hearing Officer Robert Sennett, and Member James Vaille

Members not present: Chair Brian McLoone, Member Mahendra Patel, Assoc. Member David Sawin

Staff Present: Conservation Agent Sandra MacFarlane, IT Host Quentin Collins

Vice Chairman Satterwhite stepped in as Chair for this meeting.

Acting Chairman Satterwhite made the following announcements and welcomed all present:

#### I. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. This meeting is being recorded and has remote participation.

2. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 6 PM<sup>1</sup>

#### II. PRESENTATION: Eagle Scout Kian Puleio- *for trail project at Denham Conservation Parcel, off Circuit St.*

Scout Puleio notified the Conservation Agent that he could not attend tonight's meeting. The Commission approved rescheduling this presentation to the next meeting, October 25, 2023.

### 6:15 PM

#### III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

##### 1. **191 Water St., NEP Electric Substation, SE 31-1278, COOC-23-14, NOI-**

*for exploratory geotechnical soil borings in BZ and ILSF to complete the foundation design for a single new transmission line.*

PRESENT: Heidi Graf, PE, BSC Group, Inc., Applicant's Representative

DISCUSSION: Ms. Graf presented a plan dated 9/12/23 showing four (4) exploratory geotechnical soil borings resulting in temporary impacts within isolated land subject to flooding (ILSF), within isolated vegetated wetland (IVW), associated buffer zone, and buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland (BVW). She pointed out that typical wetland matting will be used as well as erosion control materials as necessary to protect resource areas. Also that no work is proposed within BVW or the intermittent stream located southwest of the substation. In response to questions from the Members, she noted that the borings, which will be re-filled, would be approximately 4" in diameter and 25' to 30' deep. Also, that once the underground substrate is identified, design of the footings for a future electrical tower can move forward. Abutters Charles Leigh, 249 Water St., and Kevin Murphy, 141 Bardin St., shared questions and concerns for the project. Mr. Murphy spoke to the fact that the electrical easement ran across his property and that during past NGRID projects, alteration was conducted beyond the easement. The Agent noted that as a condition of the Order, bright orange flexible snow fence can be staked at the limit of work and edge of easement as a more visible barrier for the workers.

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Members Sennett and Vaille it was voted 3-0-0 to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with special conditions as discussed, as follows:

L. Satterwhite- aye, R. Sennett- aye, J. Vaille- aye.

##### 2. **1518 Hanover St., SE 31-1276, COOC-23-12, NOI-** *for septic repair in BZ to BVW*

PRESENT: James Vaille, Property Owner/Applicant

DISCUSSION: The Agent noted that a Request to continue the hearing had been received for this project.

Property owner, Mr. Vaille, being a Member of the Conservation Commission, declared that without further discussion, and in order to meet the requirements of a quorum, he was able to vote on this matter without bias.

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Members Satterwhite and Sennett it was voted 3-0-0 to continue the hearing as per the Applicant's request to December 27, 2023 at 6:15 PM as follows:

L. Satterwhite- aye, R. Sennett- aye, J. Vaille- aye.

#### IV. PRESENTATION: Stephen Sovick, Fowl Play Farm & Miss Bee Haven, and George Thibeault, Wildland Timber-Agriculture, Farming and Open Space

Mr. Sovick presented information related to the use of Conservation Parcels in a public/private venture with the goal of improving the health of the wildlife and forested areas on the parcels, while also helping to eliminate the growing food insecurities caused by climate change, the pandemic, and similar changes to our environment that are increasing in local communities. He explained his work on a parcel in Duxbury, the DeLorenzo Conservation property off Route 53, which has meadow, wetlands, and forested areas amongst the upland portions of the

<sup>1</sup> Commission's 2023 Annual Schedule:

January 25	January 30	February 22	March 29	April 26	May 31-cancelled	June 7	June 28
July 26	August 30	September 27	October 25	November 29	December 27		

site. He noted that currently he uses agricultural methods that save the forested areas, instead of clearcutting, and that a forestry management plan had been prepared by Mr. Thibeault. With State approvals, Mr. Thibeault has begun to follow through with the Forestry Management Plan including the use of any cut timber on site to be used for the future corrals, coops, fencing, sheds, and similar structures on site. It was reported that at this time, the Duxbury project is producing poultry for meat, poultry for eggs, as well as garden vegetables which are sold locally. All cut trees area used, including mounds of woodchips to create 60' to 90' vertical garden rows which greatly decreases the amount of garden area necessary to cut, while increasing the growing areas. With a modest rental fee for Mr. Sovick (Professional Farmer) to the town for the property use, the advantages to the town include increased health of the forest, wetlands, and surrounding land, proper maintenance of the property, community involvement, and locally distributed foods. It was noted that this project was a cooperative project between the Open Space and Agricultural Committees, Conservation, and Duxbury's Board of Selectmen. A brief discussion ensued regarding logistics and procedures, including the use of wells for irrigation and simple solar arrays for power, as well as Silvopastures, which is the deliberate integration of trees and grazing livestock operations on the same land. These systems are intensively managed for both forest products and forage, providing both short- and long-term income sources.

The Conservation Agent noted that with the great amount of Conservation land available in Hanover, this project would be viable and greatly beneficial in Hanover. Also, that in recent conversations with Hanover's Open Space Committee Co-Chair, interest in this project is growing.

The Commission thanked Mr. Sovick and Mr. Thibeault for their presentation and supported moving forward with the idea.

**V. ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Certificate of Compliance Request**

**a. 214 Water St., SE 31-1262, COOC-22-18-** *based on all work complete*

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Members Satterwhite and Sennett it was voted 3-0-0 to issue a Certificate of Compliance as follows: L. Satterwhite- aye, R. Sennett- aye, J. Vaille- aye.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** Reviewed with minimal comment.

**1. Administrative (Minor Acts) Permits/Events/Other:**

- a. CHPD-23-17, *for add'l training events at HPD Firing Range in October*
- b. CMA-23-10, 121 Setterland Farm Rd.- *for removal of hazardous tree adjacent to structure.*
- c. CDMA-23-7, 0 Washington St.- *for installation of new mid-span electric pole in front of #972 Washington St. in BZ and RFA +70 from resource areas (work is entirely within paved roadway layout/utility easement).*
- d. CDMA-23-8, 276 Old Farm Rd.- *for replacement of septic tank +70' from BVW w/ leaching fld. @ +100'*
- e. CSI-23-37 thru 42, *for site inspections based on general inquiries on King St., Mayflower Dr., Ponderosa Dr., and Washington St.*

**2. Minutes- 8/30/23 meeting**

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Members Satterwhite and Sennett it was voted 3-0-0 to approve the minutes as follows: L. Satterwhite- aye, R. Sennett- aye, J. Vaille- aye.

**3. Agent's Report – VOTE:** Upon a motion and second made by Members Satterwhite and Vaille, it was voted 3-0-0 to approve the revised plan with minor modifications for the #0 Union St. house reconstruction project. The remainder of report items were reviewed with minimum comment.

**4. Other -** *Those items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting- none*

**7:41 PM- Adjourned**

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Members Satterwhite and Sennett it was voted 3-0-0 to adjourn the meeting as follows: L. Satterwhite- aye, R. Sennett- aye, J. Vaille- aye.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Conservation Agent Sandra MacFarlane.

Documents Provided at Meeting: 9/27/23 Agenda, NOI application-191 Water St., NOI application-1518 Hanover St., Silvopature information, RqCOC- 214 Water St., Permits-Section VI.1, 8/30/23 draft Minutes, 9/27/23 Agent's Report