

Town of Pelham, NH
Pelham Conservation Commission
6 Village Green
Pelham, NH 03076-3723

MEETING OF 05/10/17

Members Present:

Karen Mackay, Lisa Loosigian
Paul Gagnon, Kaela Law
Ken Stanvick (alt. voting)

APPROVED 07/12/17

Members Absent:

Paul Dadak, Mike Gendreau,
Louise Delehanty,

Chairman Paul Gagnon brought the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Map 1 Lot 5-123	1401 A&B Mammoth Road – Proposed extension to a public water line along Industrial Drive within the existing utility right-of-way. The project has minor WCD impacts – Presentation by Nate Boutwell.
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The proposal is for the installation/extension of a Pennichuck water system. A 12 inch main line pipe will feed two properties (lots 1/5-126 & 5-127-1) on the east side of Mammoth Road. The properties need the water line extension because the wells on the properties have been contaminated with road salt. Both wells are located close to Mammoth Road and have unacceptable levels of sodium chloride making them unusable. Neither well could be repaired. The state Department of Transportation has a well replacement program. Members of the program came to town to inspect Mr. Boutwell's and Mr. Latour's wells and determined the wells were contaminated. The state drilled a new well, 1,200 feet deep, on Mr. Boutwell's property and the well came up dry.

Mr. Boutwell, Mr. Latour and the state determined the more cost effective solution to the water problem would be to extend the Pennichuck waterline to the two homes. The extension requires a 700 foot length of pipe from the termination of the pipe on Industrial Drive, down Industrial Drive then under Mammoth Road to the two properties. Work will be done by a contractor from Dracut, Massachusetts.

The original water pipe comes in to Pelham from Hudson or perhaps Windham through back lands and terminates on the east corner of lot 5-122. The extension of the line will be along Industrial Drive, within a current utility right-of-way (ROW). The extension will run parallel to the road and be approximately 12 feet from the wetland. Minor adjustments to the siting of the line may need to be made depending on underground obstacles such as large boulders. Commission members requested the applicant site the line as close to the road as possible without compromising the edge of the road. The applicant agreed. The town road agent must approve the work within the utility/road ROW.

Attachment of the new pipe will be made at the termination point. A trench will be dug to lay the pipe. The trench will be about the width of a backhoe and 6 feet deep. A 12 inch pipe will be installed in the trench then the trench will be backfilled. Silt fences, hay bales and best management practices will be used during and after the construction.

Wooden stakes, shown in the plan photos, are markers of locations that the state drilled holes to find the depth to ledge. Ledge is below the level needed for the pipe. There is plenty of depth for the pipe to be placed. There will be minimal impact to the WCD and all disturbed area will be restored to preconstruction conditions. No structures will be above ground. The area will be loomed and seeded.

The extension will pass through a section of wetland conservation district (WCD) for about 75-100 feet. There will be no work in the wetland. The subject wetland is located to the south of the road. The estimated distance from the road to the 36 inch culvert which drains the wetland is 20 feet. The culvert connects the natural wetland to a man-made retention pond on the north side of the road. Water flows from the natural wetland into the man-made pond then from the man-made pond into Beaver Brook. Water flow is from south to north.

Ms. Mackay spoke to Jeff Gowan prior to scheduling this meeting to ask if this case should be seen. Mr. Gowan explained that this project must come to the Commission because there was impact to the WCD. Planning is allowed to issue a special permit for this type of work, but only after receiving comment from the Commission about the WCD impact.

Motion: (Mackay/Stanvick) to approve the installation of the water pipe along the road on this plan.

Vote: 5-0-0 in favor.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Motion: (Loosigian/Stanvick) to approve Karen Mackay as secretary.

Vote: 5-0-0 in favor.

Motion: (Mackay/Law) to approve Paul Dadak as vice-chairman.

Vote: 5-0-0 in favor.

Motion: (Mackay/Stanvick) to approve Paul Gagnon as chairman.

Vote: 5-0-0 in favor.

MINUTES:

Motion: (Law/Loosigian) to approve the site walk minutes of 08/14/16.

Vote: 4-0 in favor, Stanvick abstained.

Motion: (Loosigian/ Mackay) to approve the minutes of 11/09/16.

Vote: 3-0 in favor, Stanvick and Law abstained.

Motion: (Law/Stanvick) to approve the minutes of 01/11/17.
Vote: 4-0 in favor, Loosigian abstained.

Motion: (Mackay/Stanvick) to approve the minutes of 01/21/17.
Vote: 3-0 in favor, Loosigian and Law abstained.

WALK IN ITEMS:

Mr. Gagnon announced that Ms. Law was moving out of town and would be leaving the Commission. Members wished her good luck and said they would miss her. She was invited to come back to visit.

Mr. Stanvick had some questions and concerns about chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers and oils in detention ponds. He understood that the ponds are used to slow down water flow and collect sand and debris etc. prior to the release of water from the site, but wondered how the chemicals are settled out. He wanted to know if the state has done any studies on the effects this discharge water has on flora and fauna in the wetlands. Commission members did not have a good answer for him. Mr. Gagnon suggested he contact the state and ask if they have any data about how these contaminants are handled. Ms. Loosigian said that UNH storm water center in Durham studies this issue. Mr. Stanvick commented that many of these types of chemicals have high residual effects and remain in the environment for a long period of time. He will look into this issue with the state.

Ms. Law attended a meeting about air quality around compressor stations. The state monitors the natural gas Granite Ridge power plant in Londonderry. Pelham has a compressor station that has just been approved for an upgrade to turbines. Part of the Pelham permit states the plant will run 24/7. The Pelham station is much smaller and has a fraction of the emissions that come from Granite Ridge. Pelham will not see the same level of use as Londonderry and will not be monitored as closely as Granite Ridge. A rigorous procedure is followed if emission levels exceed allowed amounts. There should be no smell from the plant. If there is any smell of gas, the fire department is to be notified immediately because this is not normal. Blowdowns, or the release of pressure into the air, are infrequent and are only conducted if necessary. Ms. Law said that residents can get information on the computer at nhdes one stop or at NHard complaint line.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: (Law/Loosigian) to adjourn
Vote: 5-0-0 in favor.

Adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Mackay,
Recording Secretary