

DEERFIELD PLANNING BOARD  
DEERFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FEBRUARY 10, 2021

MINUTES OF MEETING

PRESENT; Board members Peter Schibbelhute, Selectmen's Representative Fred McGarry, Robert Cote, William Perron. Also present Sylvia von Aulock, SNHPC, and secretary Jane Boucher.

Chair Schibbelhute called the meeting to order at 7PM.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST

Fred McGarry moved to approve the manifest in the amount of \$901.29 and two time sheets for Jane Boucher. ( SNHPC Contract \$901.29, Time sheets for 15 hours and 12 hours.) William Perron seconded. Voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fred McGarry moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2021. William Perron seconded.

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 2 Paragraph 4: Correct to read "...12,000 foot lot."

Page 2 Paragraph 9: Correct to read "...Shoreland..."

Page 2 Paragraph 7: Correct to read "..provide topography..."

Voted in favor.

REQUEST TO MERGE LOTS

Fred McGarry moved to approve the merger of Lots 13-6 and 13-7 on Tax Map 411 owned by Stephen Campbell and Lauren Devlin Campbell. William Perron seconded. Voted in favor.

7:15PM APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING CONDITIONAL USE  
PERMIT/PSNH/EVERSOURCE ENERGY/MAINTENANCE L175 TRANSMISSION  
LINE

Jeni Menendez, Sherrie Trefry, N. Martin, E. Ward, Phil Bilodeau, Errol Rhodes were present via zoom.

Chair Schibbelhute read the Notice of Public Hearing to consider an application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Public Service of NH (PSNH) dba Eversource Energy, 13 Legends Drive, Hooksett, NH for property located in Deerfield, NH (L175 Transmission Line Maintenance Adjacent to the Deerfield Substation identified as Tax Map 408 Lots 48, 49 and 50 consisting of 184 acres and owned by PSNH dba Eversource Energy and Martha Anne Curry et al. Eversource Energy is proposing to conduct maintenance on the L175 Transmission Line that involves the replacement of five structures within Eversource's existing, cleared right of way/easement that require impacts to the Wetland Conservation District.

PLANNING BOARD 2/10/21

sides, installing new poles and there is quiet extensive soils being disturbed. He suggested that Planning Board members go to the site.

Sherrie Trefry said that Eversource has been leaving the gravel.

The Board agreed that Eversource provide a Restoration Bond in the amount of \$7,000 and \$5,000 to be held in escrow for KNA.

Fred McGarry moved to Grant a Conditional Use Permit with \$7,000 be submitted for a Restoration Bond and \$5,000 to be held in Escrow for inspections done by KNA. Eversource will also be required to review monitoring of invasive species. William Perron seconded. Voted in favor.

7:45PM CONCEPTUAL MEETING/SCOTT FRANKIEWICZ/Ryan TABER  
Ryan Taber was present.

He provided plans depicting a subdivision for Map 413 Lot 7 McCarron Road, Deerfield, NH. An e-mail was received from Scott Frankiewicz advising that he probably would not attend as he had other meetings scheduled.

The plans showed a Lot line Adjustment and keep all the approved drainage revisions within the right of way.

Chair Schibbelhute said that the Board would need to see a full set of plans with wetlands and topography for Lots 10 and 11. Mr. Taber said they will be applying for a subdivision. Chair Schibbelhute suggested that he and Mr. Frankiewicz come in for a Conceptual Meeting on March 10. At that time the Board will review the plans. Chair Schibbelhute also noted that a pre-construction bond be provided

CANCELLATION OF 2/24/21 MEETING

The meeting scheduled for 2/24/21 was cancelled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Boucher  
Pending Approval of Planning Board

**From:** serita.frey@gmail.com,

**To:** mcgarry128@myfairpoint.net, svonaulock@snhpc.org, bob.cote@yahoo.com, cathleenperron@gmail.com, PeteSchib@gmail.com, kd4318@yahoo.com, f5fy@aol.com,

**Cc:** marshallgj@metrocast.net, andreozzi@gmail.com,

**Subject:** Eversource CUP

**Date:** Tue, Feb 9, 2021 7:45 pm

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Dear Planning Board—I believe Eversource representatives will be attending your meeting tomorrow evening to discuss a CUP application to conduct structure replacements on the L175 transmission line. They met with the DCC last night to discuss the project and asked that we send any comments/concerns to you.

We first want to acknowledge that our previous concerns regarding wildlife protections appear to have been taken seriously, with monitors on site weekly and contractors being trained to spot and photograph threatened species. We appreciate the role you played in making this happen.

With this current application, we want to raise concerns regarding what appears to be significant soil and vegetation disturbance and the implications this may have for invasive species coming into areas that are currently beautifully vegetated with native plants.

We would like to ask that Eversource do everything possible to minimize soil disturbance, to take care not to impact the native vegetation, and to restore the site with native vegetation (e.g., seeding with native plants). We understand there will be invasive species monitoring. We would like to know when the invasive species monitoring will occur, how often it will occur, and request receiving those data and/or a report. "

I hope you can raise these concerns with the Eversource reps tomorrow evening.

Thanks,

Serita Frey

DCC Chair



January 19, 2021

Ref: 52711.00

Mr. Peter Schibbelhute  
Deerfield Planning Board Chair  
8 Raymond Road  
PO Box 159  
Deerfield, NH 03037

Re: Town of Deerfield Conditional Use Permit Application  
L175 Pole Replacements, Deerfield, NH

Dear Mr. Schibbelhute:

On behalf of Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource), VHB is submitting this Conditional Use Permit Application to the Town of Deerfield Planning Board for proposed utility maintenance on the existing L175 transmission line in Deerfield, NH. A Conditional Use Permit (approved by the Planning Board via an Application for Site Plan Review) is required for the proposed maintenance work to allow temporary impacts to wetlands and streams and wetland buffers protected under the Wetland Conservation District (detailed in *Article II, Section 210.7* of the Town's 2020 Zoning Ordinance).

**Project Description**

Eversource intends to replace five (5) poles in Deerfield and install a lightning arrester on a single G128 line pole. The proposed work will occur within the existing, cleared transmission rights-of-way (ROW) and no additional widening of the ROW is proposed. Construction is anticipated to start in early 2021. The five poles to be replaced are laminated wood poles that will be replaced with weathered steel to meet current industry standards. Structures 1 and 2 will be replaced in the existing location, while Structures 3-5 will shift slightly within 10 feet of the original pole location. Pole height increases are necessary to maintain minimum clearance safety standards and balance line sag. The proposed height increases are detailed in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1: Existing and Proposed L175 Line Utility Pole Heights**

Utility Pole Number	Existing Height	Proposed Height
1	80	85
2	70	75
3	100	105
4	85	105
5	85	90

2 Bedford Farms Drive  
Suite 200  
Bedford, New Hampshire 03110  
P 603.391.3900  
F 603.518.7495

Engineers | Scientists | Planners | Designers



### **Project Need**

The existing poles have been identified for asset condition replacement (ACR) during Eversource annual maintenance inspections. The existing L175 poles are laminated wood poles that are showing signs of distress, requiring replacement. The proposed replacement work is part of a program to replace laminated wood structures after it was found that these structures are susceptible to water getting inside and threatening their reliability.

### **Project Execution**

Prior to construction, Eversource contractors will install erosion and sediment control barriers in accordance with permitting plans, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) conditions, and the *Best Management Practices Manual for Utility Maintenance in and Adjacent to Wetlands and Waterbodies in New Hampshire* ('Utility BMP Manual,' March 2019), published by the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NHDNCR). Selected BMPs may include silt sock, silt fence, or wood chip/compost berms/tubes. Wetland and stream resources, previously delineated by environmental consultants working for Eversource, will be verified by VHB and reflagged to assist crews prior to the start of construction. Construction crews will utilize existing established access (where present) within the limits of the ROW corridor off Cate Road to reach the poles targeted for replacement.

Construction crews will utilize timber matting to gain access across one wetland and stream within the vicinity of the proposed replacement work between Structures 3 and 4. Timber mats will also be set up around the base of Structure 1 where the work pad intersects wetlands. The timber mats provide a stable work area to stage crews and equipment. The use of timber mats is a routine practice that reduces the impact of heavy equipment on saturated wetland soils by dispersing the equipment weight, preventing the formation of ruts, and minimizing soil erosion. Stream crossings will be bridged by timber mats (from bank to bank) in order to avoid direct stream impacts and to not obstruct stream flow.

Traditional augering and installation procedures will be used. All excavated spoils will be spread within an upland area of the project ROW (outside of NHDES jurisdiction) or will be trucked off-site and properly disposed of. Construction laydown areas used to store materials and equipment along the project ROW will be in upland areas. Contingent upon permit approval, work is proposed to commence in early 2021.

Erosion controls will be inspected daily by the crews and weekly by an environmental monitor to ensure that the BMPs are maintained throughout the duration of the project. Matting and other construction debris will be removed upon completion of the proposed work. Erosion controls will not be removed until project work is complete, and the project area is stabilized in accordance with NHDES guidance. Due to the use of timber mats, it is anticipated that minimal restoration within the ROW will be needed and that natural vegetative re-colonization of impacted areas will occur during summer vegetative growth periods. VHB will revisit the ROW during this time period to confirm vegetative regrowth. If necessary, an approved upland and/or wetland seed mix outlined in NHDES guidance manuals, will be applied to any areas where cover is slow to develop. Additionally, straw or weed-free hay will be applied in conjunction with seed.



### **NH Department of Environmental Services Notification**

In accordance with NH RSA 482-A:3, XV, routine utility maintenance work is exempt from the standard wetland permitting process at the state level. However, Eversource is required to submit a Utility Maintenance Statutory Permit-by-Notification (SPN) to NHDES to cover the temporary wetland impact associated with use of timber matting within wetlands required to complete the replacement work on the L175 line. VHB is currently assisting Eversource with this filing. As part of the NHDES SPN process, The Town of Deerfield will receive a copy of this filing.

### **Conditional Use Permit Procedures and Requirements**

The Deerfield 2020 Zoning Ordinance provides that Conditional Use Permit (CUP) applications can be approved by the Planning Board if it is found that the use is consistent with the ordinance conditions and do not have an adverse impact on the wetlands. A CUP may be issued in accordance with the approval criteria within *Article II, Section 210.7(A)*.

**1. *The proposed construction is essential to the productive use of land not within the Wetlands Conservation District.*** The proposed maintenance work is required to maintain the reliability of the infrastructure that provides electricity to the regional grid. Maintaining the flow of electricity to developed regions of the state is essential to the safety and productivity of those communities.

**2. *Design and construction methods will be such as to minimize detrimental impact upon the wetland and will include restoration of the site as nearly as possible to its original grade and condition.*** The proposed project will utilize the *Best Management Practices Manual for Utility Maintenance in and Adjacent to Wetlands and Waterbodies in New Hampshire* ('Utility BMP Manual,' March 2019), published by the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NHDNCR) to complete the proposed work. BMPs to be utilized include stabilized construction entrances, sediment and erosion controls, timber matting for access within wetlands, dewatering basins, and seeding and mulching of disturbed areas, as required. A depiction and details of proposed BMPs are included on the site plans. In addition, a wetland scientist will oversee construction and restoration of the proposed work to ensure that BMPs are properly installed prior to work activities commencing.

Work pads within wetlands will be constructed of timber mats in such a way to minimize ground pressure and disturbance to vegetation. In a location where a stream needs to be bridged, timber mats will be used to span the stream to maintain flow during construction or for access. Mats will be removed, and areas will be evaluated by a wetland scientist to determine what restoration activities shall take place. If restoration occurs outside the growing season, the area will be stabilized for the winter and restoration will occur at the beginning of the next growing season, as necessary.

**3. *No alternative route which does not cross a wetland or has less detrimental impact on the wetland is feasible.*** There is no alternative route which does not cross a wetland or has less detrimental impact. Timber mats are proposed to minimize impacts to wetlands and streams that cannot be avoided. Timber mats are proposed within the southwestern portion of the Structure 1 work pad area and to cross a wetland



and intermittent stream to access Structures 4 and 5 from Cate Road at a narrow point. Impacts to wetlands and streams are required to access and conduct work on the poles.

**4. Economic advantage alone is not reason for the proposed construction.** The proposed construction is required to maintain the reliability of the electric infrastructure and is not for economic advantage.

Within the Town of Deerfield, approximately **5,980 sq. ft.** of temporary wetland impacts is required for the placement of timber matting. Access will also result in approximately **49,423 sq. ft.** temporary wetland buffer impact. All work will be completed in accordance with the Best Management Practices for Utility Maintenance in New Hampshire (Utility BMPs). Refer to the attached representative wetland impact photographs.

#### **Wetland Verification**

A portion of the proposed project will take place within the Town of Deerfield's Wetlands Conservation District. The District is defined as those areas of the town that contain wetlands as defined in *Article II, Section 210.2* of the Zoning Ordinance, as well as all areas within 100 feet of the jurisdictional wetland area. Under *Section 210.3*, the provisions of *Article II* apply to all wetlands and adjacent buffers except manmade ditches, swales, basins, ponds, etc.

Wetlands within the G128/L175 ROW were previously delineated in support of past Eversource maintenance work. Previously delineated wetlands were field verified and reflagged in December 2020 by a VHB Certified Soil Scientist. Wetland verification was performed in accordance with the procedures and standards outlined in the *1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region, Version 2.0* (January 2012). Wetland delineation also relied upon the *Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in the United States, Version 8.2*, published by the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the *Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, Version 4.0*, published by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission in April 2019. Dominant wetland vegetation was assessed using the *2018 National Wetland Plant List* published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lastly, wetlands were classified using the USFWS methodology in the *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin et al. 1979, revised 1985).

The proposed project will not negatively impact the existing wetlands. Some temporal loss of wetland function as wildlife habitat is expected during construction. However, use of timber mats reduces the timeframe of impact by minimizing impact to the root structure of the plants so that revegetation happens faster.

#### **Property Ownership and Abutters**

All proposed work will occur within the limits of property or easement controlled by Public Service Company of NH. All owners of parcels where impacts to the Wetlands Conservation District will occur, as well as owners of parcels who abut or are located within 50 feet of these properties will be notified of the proposed project in accordance with the Town of Deerfield's Conditional Use Permit application process. The list of owners and abutters and the associated tax maps are attached.

Town of Deerfield  
Ref: 52711.00  
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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at (603) 391-3951 or [strefry@vhb.com](mailto:strefry@vhb.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherrie Trefry".

Sherrie Trefry, CSS  
Director of Energy and Environmental Services

cc: Jeni Menendez, Eversource

Attachments:

- Town of Deerfield Application for Site Plan Review Form
- Abutters List & Deerfield Tax Maps
- Soil Drainage Class Map
- Representative Wetland Impact Photographs
- Project Plans