

**CITY OF FITCHBURG
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019**

[Note: Meeting postponed from Tuesday, Sept. 24th due to election]

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tracey Sarefield, Chair, Bryan Breau (6:15), John Cordio, Mike Donnelly, Harry Karis, John Koutonen, Ralph Baker (associate member)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Mike O'Hara

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:02 at the Fitchburg Municipal Airport, 567 Crawford St., Administration Building, Room 106.

Tracey read an introduction stating the mission statement of the Commission, and the role & responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and the eight interests of the Wetlands Protection Act.

MINUTES

Minutes of the August 27th meeting approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Request for Determination of Applicability - Unitil, replacement gas main to East WWTP, 24 Lanides Lane Hearing opened. Ken Stanley, Tri-Mont Engineering presented plan. They've been working as consultants to Unitil for seven years. Due to the threat of the existing gas main to the East Plant being undermined due to erosion of the riverbank, they plan to cut, cap & abandon it in place and construct a new gas main. Using Horizontal Directional Drilling a 6-inch diameter casing pipe will be drilled from the Crawford St. side under the river and a 4-inch gas pipe placed within that sleeve. Ken reviewed plan & 3. approximately 18 feet below the bottom of the river. They will directional drill as steep an angle as they can to get under the river. Directional drilling is computer- guided by a gyroscope in the drillhead. Most of the line is well away from the river. Once the drilling is out of the Riverfront Area on the other side, pipe would be installed by cut & cover up to the plant. Erosion control barriers will be installed along the length of the 25-foot wide work zone. There is only temporary disturbance in the 100-year floodplain, no permanent alteration.

Their design is 90% complete. They still need to do soil borings, but soils maps shows that work area should be mostly sand & gravel. Work is almost completely outside of the 200-foot Riverfront Area - - just four feet into the Riverfront on the Crawford Ave. side.

Q: What if encounter ledge?

Ken: They are prepared to drill thru any ledge or large boulders they encounter.

Q: There may be a lot of water & mud from the drilling, how will that be handled?

The contractor selected will be responsible for that. Unitil has uses the same drilling contractor 0on other jobs, they may have to use tubs, temporary pits, etc.

Q: Will location of new main also be at risk as the course of the river changes over time?

Unitil will monitor location of riverbank over time & address in future if needed, but that stretch of the Nashua has not changed much over the years, unlike further downstream where the old gas line is.

Timeline: Estimate two weeks to complete work, definitely want to complete before winter. They will start as soon as revised language & plan for utility easement is approved by Wastewater & City Council.

Motion made & seconded to close hearing. Vote in favor.

Motion made (Mike D.) & seconded (Harry) to issue Order of Conditions with standard Special Conditions. Vote 5-0 in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Informal - Fitchburg DPW - Wastewater: Next phase of Combined Sewer Separation project: First St., Water, Walnut, Payson, Cross, Laurel Streets

Tony Maressa, DPW-Wastewater explained the areas affected by DPW's next round of sewer separation & showed a color coded map of the areas. A total of 1,700 linear feet of work will be in the Riverfront Area. Silt sacks will be placed in all catchbasins near work area. Straw bales will be placed around CBs, erosion control barrier to be placed on Nashua River side of the Walnut St. work.

Work will include closing four regulator sewer manholes including CSO 30 (under the Water St. Bridge by Market Basket which overflows abt. 50 times/yr.) and the CSO by Commercial St. @ Riverfront Park.

They will also be eliminating the sewer pipe hanging from the Water St. Bridge. MassDOT will be replacing that bridge. Timetable: Start work April 2020.

Commission agreed that filing a Request for Determination of Applicability will suffice for this project. Wastewater's on-call engineering consultant (Weston & Sampson) will be filing an RDA later this fall. Mike D asked if Wastewater could provide the Commission with their BMPs for protecting city catchbasins near sewer excavation work.

Extension request - - OOC #155-646, Edgewater Homes, 0 Rindge Rd., SFD

This OOC permitted a sewer connection for a proposed single-family dwelling in the Riverfront area of Falulah Brook, just north of McKay School. Prior to the last two meetings, Edgewater had requested that action be deferred since he wasn't able to attend. Applicant not present tonight.

OOO had been issued 9/29/2016, therefore will expire 9/29/19. No work has yet taken place on the site.

Motion made (Harry) & seconded (Bryan) to not grant an Extension of the OOC. Vote 6-0 in favor.

Certificates of Compliance

Chris Tymula, MHF Design in to request Cert. of Compliance for the new Cumberland Farms at 550 Kimball St. Chris submitted P.E.'s certificate & -built plan Site grading at rear of site has been revised so that there is now an increase in flood storage capacity. Tracey stated that an inspection she & Tim did there was evidence of scouring at the outlet of the D-basin. Also, a portion of silt fence was still on the edge of the site on the downstream side near the Kimball St. driveway.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 7:05 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 10/29/19