



TOWN OF WARE

Conservation Commission

126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082
413.967.9648

Meeting Minutes from
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Chairman Mark Swett, Thomas Barnes, Dennis Cote, Kristin Rosenbeck, Peter Toper IV

Public in Attendance: Nicole Croteau and Anna Marques

Public in Remote Participation: Theresa Portante, Jeremy Chapman, Elo Qorri,

Governor Baker's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, §20, dated March 10, 2020, allows remote participation under this Order due to the Coronavirus State of Emergency.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPLICATIONS

A. DEP #317-452 by Ecos Energy, Monson Turnpike Road

NOI Application for construction of a large-scale ground-mount solar array located on Monson Turnpike Road. The applicant and project manager, Rodney Galton requested a continuance.

MOTION by Thomas Barnes to continue the public hearing until the next scheduled meeting. Seconded by Kristin Rosenbeck. No discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

B. DEP #317-463 by Bertin Engineering for Melink Solar, Greenwich Road (*FT Smith*)

NOI Application for construction of a large-scale ground-mount solar array located on Greenwich Road. The applicant and project manager, Steven Pikul requested a continuance until next scheduled meeting.

MOTION by Kristin Rosenbeck to continue the public hearing until the next scheduled meeting. Seconded by Thomas Barnes. No discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

C. DEP 317-465 by Bertin Engineering for Melink Solar, Greenwich Road (*Couture*)

NOI Application for construction of a large-scale ground-mount solar array located on Greenwich Road. Nicole Croteau stated the plans have been sent to the peer reviewer and the Planning Board has approved this project with Conditions for additional plantings along the road and approved a section of the fence to be black fencing. Chairman asked if the debris was cleaned up and it was agreed that June 1, 2021 it needed to be cleaned.

MOTION by Peter Toper to continue until next scheduled meeting. Seconded by Kristin Rosenbeck. No discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

D. DEP 317-468 by Bertin Engineering, 278 Osborne Road, Harder, Large Scale Solar Array.

NOI Application for construction of a large-scale ground-mount solar array located on Osborne Road. Nicole Croteau stated the plans have been sent to the peer reviewer and requested quotes for the Stormwater Review. N. Croteau continued to state the Planning Board approved the Subdivision Plan but has not acted upon the solar application. T. Barnes requested the applicant to reach out to DPW to have the culvert cleaned. J. Chapman stated during the subdivision review process, Melink worked with DPW to tie into the existing drainage, which was also recommended. E. Qorri stated the stormwater discharge will be cleaned prior so there should be no issues with the existing culvert. T. Barnes stated the subdivision approval was for a two-lot subdivision and one of the lots contained the solar arrays. N. Croteau agreed with T. Barnes and expressed that since the NOI application only indicated "utilities" being checked off and not the "subdivision", therefore, the Commission is requesting the additional peer review quote for the drainage. To verify if indeed the stormwater calculations and design are according to DEP Stormwater Standards.

MOTION by Denis Cote to continue the public hearing until the next schedule meeting. Seconded by Thomas Barnes. No Discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Notification of Utility Maintenance Activities by National Grid and BSC Group, Babcock Tavern Road. The Conservation Department received a notification letter dated Feb. 23, 2021 from National Grid the scope of work was replacement of two (2) utility poles and one (1) push brace and one (1) anchor within the 100-foot buffer zone to Inland Bank to Beaver Lake and replacement of one (1) pole within the locally regulated 100-ft buffer zone to a vernal pool. It is classified as normal maintenance and is exempt under MA W.P.A. MGL 131-40 and regulations 310 CMR 10.02 (2)(a)2. Theresa Portante, from BSC Group stated the project can take 1-2 months to complete. The work is also taken place within Belchertown. There will be police duty on Route 9. No further discussion.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Approval of Minutes

February 10, 2021 – Topic was Tabled.

Topic of Discussion – Junk

Anna Marques asked the Commission if there appears to be junk within a wetland jurisdiction area, would the Commission like to act on it. Chairman stated that if antifreeze or other oils/gases are within the jurisdiction, that should be notified to DEP. A. Marques will include the Commission on violation letters in the future as deemed fit. Chairman will request the Agent to inspect as needed.

DEP 317-422 Update

The bidding process has begun for a portion of the rail trail area near Gibb's crossing for installation of stone dust and drainage. A. Marques reviewed the scope of work as originally permitted. The Conditions are valid for 3-years and at this point, it is not valid. It is suggested that Rebekah Cornell, from the PCD Department request a Certificate of Compliance for the work which was completed on the bridge and then request a site visit with the Agent to verify if the stone dust and drainage will require a new filing.

Meetings and Appointments

Tom Barnes asked if meetings would continue to be at 6:30 pm during spring and summer and the Commission agreed to keep the starting time at 6:30pm.

Chairman Swett's appointment is due to expire June 30, 2021. N. Croteau will submit a letter on behalf of M. Swett to be reappointed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn at 7:10 pm. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Next scheduled meeting is on April 14, 2021.

Minutes from March 10, 2021
Respectfully submitted by,

Nicole Croteau
Conservation Commission Administration

<i>Minutes Approved on:</i>	_____
Swett	_____
Barnes	_____
Cote	_____
Rosenbeck	_____
Topor, IV	_____