

Department of Planning and Community Development

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Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

Braintree Conservation Commission

Patrick Flynn, Chair
Donald Murphy, Vice-Chair
Diane Francis
Matthew Hobin
Daniel J. McMorrow, Jr.
Gail Poliner-Feldman
Alan Weinberg

Staff Kelly Phelan

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012

Members Present: Gus Murphy, Vice Chair
Gail Feldman
Diane Francis
Daniel J. McMorrow, Jr.
Alan Weinberg

Staff: Kelly Phelan

APPROVED

Public Hearings

Request for Determination of Applicability - Union St. (Rt. 3 N rotary entrance)/BELD

Sean Murphy from Braintree Electric Light Department was present. He explained that the 115 thousand volt electrical transmission line requires cathodic protection from corrosion. The existing system recently failed and the pipe leaked out insulating oil. Their consultant recommends installation of anode beds in two locations; one of which is the town property at the corner of Union St. and Cleveland Avenue.

Mr. (Sean) Murphy said that ten anodes would be installed in augured holes about 13 feet deep. The anodes are 5 feet long and 3 inches in diameter. Conduit to connect them would be buried about two 2 feet deep.

Mr. (Gus) Murphy said that the area is disturbed; it was the staging area for the recent construction on Union St.

Ms. Feldman asked how much disturbance would occur and how far from the river this would occur. Mr. (Sean) Murphy said that about 90 feet of length by a foot wide would be disturbed. He said they will regrade back to existing conditions. He said they would be about 100 feet from the river.

Mr. (Gus) Murphy asked if there was comment from the public. There was none.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Ms. Feldman, to issue a negative determination of applicability under the Wetland Protection Act and local bylaw with a condition for silt fence between the work area and the river. Vote: 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Ms. Feldman, to close the public hearing. Vote: 5-0.

Request for Determination of Applicability – Edgehill Rd.(next to Smith Beach)/BELD

Sean Murphy from Braintree Electric Light Department was present. He explained that the 115 thousand volt electrical transmission line requires cathodic protection from corrosion. The existing system recently failed and the pipe leaked out insulating oil. Their consultant recommends installation of anode beds in two locations. This is the second location proposed for an anode bed. It is the same design as the Union St. anode project but there would only be five anodes instead of ten. They would be installed within the Fore River between the low and high tide area. The conduit would be trenched to the shore and along the existing walking path to the BELD transmission line.

Ms. Feldman asked about the impacts of this in a tidal area and if there would be a study of impacts.

Mr. (Sean) Murphy said that anodes are commonly used in rivers and the Edgar station up the Fore River has the same design.

Ms. Feldman asked why they anodes have to be in the water. Mr. (Sean) Murphy said that they thrive in moist soil and they need to be in close proximity to the transmission line.

Ms. Feldman said she thought a full Notice of Intent should be done with an impact study.

Mr. McMorrow clarified that the transmission line was unprotected and there was a risk of another oil leak. Mr. (Sean) Murphy said that there was risk and there was urgency to getting the anodes installed. He said the life expectancy of the anode beds is about twenty to twenty-five years.

Mr. Weinberg said that he sees the safety issue with the transmission line and is comfortable with a negative determination. He said he would like to staff to be present during the work.

Ms. Feldman said the proposal seems premature as there is not even a restoration plan. Mr. (Sean) Murphy said they would provide a restoration plan

Mr. Murphy asked for public comment. There was none.

Staff noted the work would have to be done in low tide.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. McMorrow, to issue a negative determination of applicability with conditions that staff receive a plan and be satisfied with the work and make site inspections. Vote: 4-1, Ms. Feldman opposed.

Other Business

Request for Certificate of Compliance DEP File #8-598 – 250 Granite St./Dave & Busters

Brian Dundon from RJ O'Connell & Associates, Inc. was present. He said they had filed for renovation work at the former Circuit City at South Shore Plaza. The work has been completed and Dave & Buster's is open.

Staff said she reviewed the as-built plans and the conditions and did a site visit and recommended the Commission issue the Certificate of Compliance and release the \$3000 as-built bond.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. McMorrow, to issue the Certificate of Compliance.
Vote: 5-0.

Request for Certificate of Compliance DEP File #8-595 – Lakeside Dr. Substation/BELD

Staff said this project involved the addition of a transformer at the substation. She reviewed the as-built plans and the conditions and made a site visit and recommended issuing the Certificate of Compliance with surviving condition #37 for inspection.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. McMorrow, to issue the Certificate of Compliance with surviving condition #37. Vote: 5-0.

Sunset Lake Project Update

Staff said the construction is complete with the exception of planting the rain gardens in the spring. She will be looking for volunteers. Mr. Murphy suggested the scout troop.

Process and Procedures for Meetings and Hearings

Tabled until the following meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Francis, second by Mr. McMorrow, to accept the minutes of January 5, 2012. Vote: 5-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. McMorrow, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35. Vote: 5-0.