

Department of Planning and Community Development

90 Pond Street
Braintree, MA 02184
781 794-8230



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, MARCH 1, 2012

APPROVED

Members Present: Patrick Flynn, Chair
Gail Feldman
Diane Francis
Matthew Hobin
Daniel J. McMorrow, Jr.
Alan Weinberg

Staff: Kelly Phelan

Public Hearings

Request for Determination of Applicability – Quincy Avenue Gas Main Installation

Brad Malo from Coastal Engineering Co. was present to represent National Grid. The proposal is for installation of gas main along Quincy Avenue from the National Grid facility to the Quincy town line. Two areas will include work within jurisdictional areas. One is the bridge crossing for Quincy Avenue bridge and the other is work near the Braintree/Quincy town line.

A 12 inch main from the facility on Quincy Ave. will connect to an existing line which crosses the bridge. The work is within the riverfront area and buffer zone though it is within existing pavement of the roadway. At the second location near the town line the main will cross a culvert which is mapped as flood zone by FEMA. There are other, existing utilities which cross above this culvert. Trenches will be excavated to about three feet and backfilled on the same day. They propose silt sacks in the catch basins. Permitting by MA Highway is also needed.

Ms. Feldman asked how much work is within resource areas. Mr. Malo said technically they are not in the resource area since they will be working above the flood elevation.

Mr. Weinberg asked if the installation continued into Quincy and if they had filed with the Quincy Conservation Commission. Mr. Malo replied that they had filed and the hearing was scheduled for the following week.

Mr. Weinberg asked when they would start and how long the project would take. Mr. Malo said the start date would depend on permitting through MA Highway. He said they can install about 200 feet of 12 inch main a day and the 8 inch main goes more quickly and estimated about two weeks total for the project.

Ms. Feldman asked how frequently maintenance would be required. Mr. Malo said maintenance typically doesn't involve excavation unless there is a leak (and that is generally on older mains), the valves and components which need frequent maintenance or testing are checked at ground level.

Ms. Feldman asked staff why the applicant should not file a Notice of Intent. Staff said she didn't see a need for it given that they are working within existing roadway and pavement.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. McMorrow, to issue a negative determination of applicability to National Grid for work on Quincy Ave between #39 and #85 and the Braintree/Quincy town line with conditions for silt sacks and a silt sock at the excavation on the bridge and staff notification 48 hours prior to the start of work and upon completion of work. Vote: 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Hobin, to close the public hearing. Vote: 6-0.

Other Business

September 6th Meeting

Staff said there was a conflict with the state primary election. Fletcher Hall and the auditorium are needed that day by the Town Clerk. Also it may not be good practice to have a meeting on an election day. The Commission agreed to cancel the meeting and will add a meeting in late August if necessary.

Process and Procedures for Meetings and Hearings

Staff prepared a list of discussion points regarding the process for meetings and hearings, including closing public hearings (unless continuing), clarifying motions, quorum and voting.

Ms. Feldman raised concern about issuing negative determinations for work in resource areas, such as the recent BELD anode project in the Fore River. Mr. McMorrow said that it was an urgent situation because of the lack of corrosion protection for the transmission line and required something different. Mr. Weinberg agreed.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. McMorrow, to accept the minutes of February 16, 2012. Vote: 6-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Hobin, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Vote: 6-0.