

**Minutes of the Special Meeting
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford
Sunday, November 1, 2015 – 10 a.m.**

Rev. 3 – Corrected Address Location

Chairman Bill Poutray called to order the November 1, 2015 special meeting of the Conservation Commission at 10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call at 10:04

- a) Present: Bill Poutray, Steve Johnson, , Claire Casey, Maureen Mauro DeSantie, Keith Dunn, Oden Seaholm, Dan Drago
 - 1. Applicant representatives, Michael Grillo, L.J. Grillo, and Brian Stone, Esq.
- b) Absent: Jerry Loiselle, Ryan Keeler

2. Public Comments

- a) None

3. New Business

- a) **Application for Site Plan Approval and Special Exception, Grillo Services LLC, 553 West Avenue.**

Vice-Chairman, Steve Johnson, explained that he will recuse himself from any discussions on the Grillo Application. Instead, as the Open Space and Natural Resource Agent, he will act as Staff Liaison to the Conservation Commission on this application.

Chairman, Bill Poutray stated this is a public meeting but no one except commissioners and the applicant may ask questions or comment, after any public comment. It is also inappropriate for commissioners to express opinions, pro or con, about the merits or deficiencies of the application, and all questions are to be limited to establishing facts, and must be limited to the purview of the Conservation Commission, that is conditions in the open space area and environmental factors such as flora and fauna present.

Bill Poutray also clarified the advisory role of the Conservation Commission.

1. Site walk started at the 533 West Avenue parking lot and proceeded down to the boardwalk trail ending at the start of the damaged boardwalk. Steve Johnson discussed:
 - a. RFQ Design Plans to rebuild the damaged boardwalk by the 2012 Phragmite fire that the City was pursuing.
 - b. City was maintaining 25' centerline of the trail as per the conservation easements.
 - c. Examples of existing non-native invasive vegetation were pointed out by Steve Johnson at various times along the walk.

- d. Bill Poutray asked Steve to provide a list of the observed non-native vegetation on the site to the Commission. See the attached Addendum A.
2. Walked to the west side of the canal on West Avenue and up the hill in the area that would be the main entrance and exit. The Schoolhouse Road access would be limited to emergency vehicles only. A portion of the driveway crosses the easement area, however, this use is a permitted condition that was part of the Declaration of Conservation Easement.
 - a. Michael, L.J. and Attorney Brian Stone reviewed sheet C3.0 Overall Site Plan, C8.0 Earthworks Plan for Cut and Fill areas, and the L-1 Planting plan.
 - b. The need for Phragmite management was discussed. The Applicant was unsure of any specific details in the Declaration of Conservation Restriction or the Trail Easement that would require them to provide the invasive management. Steve Johnson said the City Attorney's office had reviewed the easements and that the City was responsible for the 25' centerline of the trail within the easement area and that the landowner was responsible for the management of the remaining easement area. Steve Johnson had previously discussed the need for this Phragmite management in the marsh with Michael and L.J. Grillo. It was estimated that the cost for 3 to 4 years would be about \$18,000 - \$22,000. This would require a contract between the State and the owners of the property at 533 West Ave. An updated estimate would be required. The Applicant would be reviewing the language of the Easements however, they said they would be willing to consider this Phragmite management if the plans were ultimately approved.
3. Walked to the top of the hill where the Composting Windrows and Material Storage bins would be located. The material storage bins would be obscured from view from the conservation area by being set into the hillside and with buffer plantings.
 - a. Michael Grillo also stated that the composing windrows and material storage area would be absorbing sound from the I-95 traffic.
 - b. The extensive Landscape plan, L-1 & L-2 was reviewed in greater detail at this time.
4. Walked to the mowed field where the Iroquois Pipeline is located and marked. The Pipeline depth is an estimated 12' to 19'. The pipeline location would be restricted to access by a fence 25' centerline of the gas transmission line. Grillo would have two areas crossing the pipeline that will be paved to provide vehicle access within the site for operations. The Iroquois Gas Transmission company has reviewed all plans.
 - a. Dan Drago asked if there were any acoustic studies that were done concerning the comments by Michael Grillo that their storage and composting operations would be a noise buffer. Michael responded that they did have a report from an acoustic engineer that they could provide for review.
5. Walked west along the proposed gravel driveway to the base of the hill on the berm dividing the canal and the wetland mitigation area.
 - a. The Wetland Mitigation area has a separate extensive planting plan that was approved by the Inland Wetlands Agency. As part of the mitigation, Grillo will be removing as much accumulated debris along the I-95 fence line as possible.

6. Continued walking west towards the proposed detention pond.
7. Walked back to the Beaver Brook canal culvert and trash rack. Steve Johnson pointed out the height of previous flooding when the trash rack was plugged with debris from the trees. The Applicant has previously helped to clear this.
8. Walked across to Mitigation area # 2, a 33,213 SQ. FT. gravel hillside that will be excavated for use as fill as shown on the C8.0 Earthwork Plan.
9. Walked to the easement trail area where the pipe connects the marsh to the Beaver Brook Canal. Presently the water level in the marsh was below the pipe. This section of the trail appears to fall within the City's obligation to maintain the pipe within the 25' centerline of the trail.
 - a. Michael and L.J. Grillo offered to help clear out any of the blocked canal with their equipment as long as it was permitted by Milford's Inland Wetland Agency.
10. Walk proceeded back to the parking lot.

Chairman Bill Poutray asked if there were any further questions and thanked the Applicant for attending this site walk. Based on the applicant's schedule, the Conservation Commission discussed holding a Special Meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. to review this application. A motion to accept scheduling the special meeting and to adjourn was made by Keith Dunn and seconded by Maureen Mauro DeSantie. It was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Johnson
Open Space and Natural Resource Agent

These minutes have not been accepted or approved.