



TOWN OF MAYNARD
Conservation Commission

Minutes 7/31/2018

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Commission Members Present: James Bullis, M. John Dwyer, Ellen Greendale, Karen O'Reilly

Conservation Administrator: Kaitlin Young

Absent: Andrew Snyder

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING:

Notice of Intent, 0 Dettling Road, DEP #213-0279

Aaron Miklosko, Director of Public Works for the Town of Maynard explained that two of Maynard's wells are offline, and that in a water deficit, the currently active wells cannot meet peak demand. Wayne Amico, the Town Engineer, explained that the wellsite at 0 Dettling Road was the best alternative for high yield capacity.

Mr. Miklosko explained that some grading would occur, in order to get the truck into the well site. Only one truck would enter the site, and all other workers would walk into the site. No grading would occur in the actual wetland. Minor clearing of vegetation would occur where the old clearance path was located at the 129 Parker site.

Ms. Greendale expressed concern regarding whether or not the well project would drain the swamp. Dave Harwood, of GEOINSIGHT, explained that the wetland water levels would be measured with a piezometer, and computer modeling would be used to show if and how the wetlands would be drained. The DEP would make conditions, such as the reduction of pumping, if tests show that significant draining will occur. Mr. Harwood also explained that the sediment removed from the drilling will be collected into a containment area so it does not fill the wetland.

Jared Green of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spoke about the Blanding's Turtle habitat that exists on town property and the refuge. Mr. Green explained that 2,000 Blanding's Turtles were previously released at the refuge, making the area one of the largest known concentrations of the turtles. Mr. Green explained that the turtles are susceptible to drought, and high mortality rates were recorded during the 2016 drought. Mr. Green mentioned that the Fish and Wildlife Service is comfortable with the well testing, but does not have an opinion yet on the actual pumping, and is waiting to see how the pumping affects the water levels of the wetland.

Mr. Dwyer said that he was concerned that the town was putting money into this project, when it may fail with the DEP. Mr. Dwyer also recommended that all trees removed should be recorded as part of the site clearing.

Mr. Dwyer initiated acceptance of the order. Ms. Greendale seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Greendale to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Dwyer. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled: Tuesday, August 14th, 2018 at Town Hall.

Documents submitted list:

NOI for the 4A Well Project