

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JULY 13, 2015
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Don Ward, Chairman
Cheryl Blackburn
Jeff Collingwood
Ted Pitman
Peter Stiglin

Others Present: Jill Hughes, Clerk
Members of the public (see sign in sheet)

Chairman Don Ward called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed Jeff Collingwood and Ted Pitman to the Commission.

Reorganization of the Commission: P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to nominate Don Ward as Chairman. The motion passed 5-0.

Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by Seaboard Solar for property on Home Road for construction of (1) 1.4 MW and (1) 1.46 MW solar arrays. Michael Loin from Bertin Engineering and Mike Kulig from Berkshire Engineering were present. The Commission reviewed the letter from the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife dated June 22, 2015. The letter stated that the project will not result in a prohibited “take” of state-listed rare species. M. Loin gave a brief overview of the project. M. Kulig reviewed the peer review he conducted. A discussion ensued about the existing Public Water Supply located at Custom Extrusion. M. Loin stated that MassDEP Drinking Water Program had no issues with the well and that they have a policy that allows solar arrays in a Zone 1 area. M. Kulig suggested the Commission could make a special condition that they have to follow DEP regulations regarding the well. M. Kulig asked for clarification on how the solar panels will be secured. M. Loin stated that they will be post driven into the ground (no concrete).

P. Stiglin asked about connection to the grid. M. Loin stated that there will be two separate connections and shut offs at the poles. An electrical engineer will be working with National Grid. M. Kulig talked about the wetland delineations outside of the scope of work and suggested the Commission make it a special condition. A discussion ensued about the property being divided in the future and how an Order of Conditions would be recorded. Since an Order of Conditions would be attached to the deed it would not be an issue if the property was divided.

Chairman Ward stated that he would like more time to review the latest revisions and to conduct another site visit with the new members of the Commission. A discussion ensued about whether or not the two new members of the Commission would be able to vote on the NOI application as they were not present at all of the public hearings. The Commission’s secretary will look into it and report back at the next meeting.

P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to close the public hearing for the Notice of Intent filed by Seaboard Solar and to deliberate at the meeting on July 27, 2015 @ 7PM. The motion passed 3-0. Jeff Collingwood and Ted Pitman abstained from the vote.

Rick Stover owner of Custom Extrusion spoke about his disappointment in the Commission continuing the meeting again, since there are no issues. The Commission thanked Mr. Stover for his comments. M. Loin asked if the Commission would send him a draft Order of Conditions for him to review.

Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by Kenneth Westlake for property on North Main Street for construction of a solar array. The Commission reviewed an email dated June 11, 2015 from the applicant's representative withdrawing their Notice of Intent. **P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to close the public hearing for the Notice of Intent filed by Kenneth Westlake. The motion passed 5-0.**

P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to allow the withdrawal of the Notice of Intent for Kenneth Westlake. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed draft minutes from June 8, 2015. **P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from C. Blackburn to approve the June 8, 2015 minutes as written. The motion passed 3-0. Jeff Collingwood and Ted Pitman abstained from the vote.**

Bills Pending: The Commission reviewed and signed a bills payable.

Review of Forest Cutting Plans: There were no cutting plans to review.

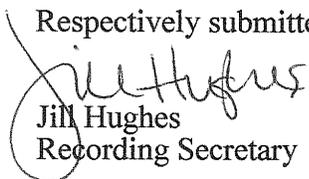
Upcoming Conferences and Mail: There were no conferences or mail to review.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the Commission this evening, **P. Stiglin motioned, with a second from T. Pitman to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The following documents were reviewed during the Board's meeting and have been retained as required by the Massachusetts Public Retention Policy: Meeting Agenda, Sign in sheet, Draft meeting minutes 6/8/15; NOI application for Seaboard Solar; NOI application for Kenneth Westlake.

Respectively submitted by:


Jill Hughes
Recording Secretary