

Conservation Commission Public Hearing Minutes – February 18, 2021

Time: 7:00 – 9:08 PM **Location:** Remote

Members Present: Tom Ruskin, Chair; Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair; Colleen Hitchcock; Jonathan Grabowski

Members Absent: Monica Lagerquist, A. Randall Hughes

The public hearing of the Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The public hearing was video recorded.

AGENDA

NOTICES OF INTENT

1. Notice of Intent – DEP #071-0339 (Offshore/Atlantic Ocean) – filed by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) for an offshore, fiber optic submarine cable system under the Atlantic Ocean, 4.9 miles of which will be located in Swampscott.

ERM Representatives Alexia O’Brien and Heather Heater were present for the hearing and provided the presentation of the NOI to the Commission.

The installation of the cable will be completed in under one day, sometime by the end of 2021 or the beginning of 2022.

MOTION: T. Bandrowicz to determine that the project qualifies as a limited project, meaning that activities may be reviewed by the Commission, who then has the authority to approve or deny said activities. M. Tamborini seconds; unanimously approved.

MOTION: T. Bandrowicz to issue Order of Conditions with general conditions and the following special conditions:

- ERM is to inform on decision of hard armoring in two locations
- ERM to provide notice to the fishing and lobstering communities
- ERM to provide notice to both the harbormaster and Town Hall

M. Tamborini seconds; unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

2. Discussion of potential coastal resiliency study by Kleinfelder

Kleinfelder quoted the Commission at \$6,000 to perform the study on coastal resiliency recommendations, which was prompted by the issue of sandbags being placed at the properties located at 15-17 Puritan Rd. Commission wants to make it clear that these funds are being used for the education of the Commission itself, and not for the benefit of the homeowner.

3. Discussion of setting priorities for 2021

Conservation Commission Fund: Toni will work with Community Development department to take this up as an article on the warrant for Town Meeting in May

Local Wetlands Protection Bylaw: Want to ensure that eelgrass and bay are protected

Open Space & Recreation Plan: Commission is to provide updates to OSRP committee, as they are listed as an important body. Commission will work with committee, however, to redesignate certain lands as conservation lands or non-conservation lands. i.e. Upper Jackson should be petitioned to become conservation land, whereas Linscott Park should not be designated conservation land as it does not meet the criteria given by the State.

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Commission to add statement to opening script at every meeting which will acknowledge the original, indigenous landowners.