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**ADAMS CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, October 20th, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman James Fassell, and Commission members David Lipinski, Erica Deane, Steve Melito, Natasha Bordeaux, and Matthew Burdick

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Member Jeff Randal

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brian Rhodes, iBerkshires.com; Isaiah Moore, Recording Secretary; Eammon Coughlin, Town Staff; Wes Scalise, Christopher Biddy, Paul Jahnige, Laura Baxton Applicants; Joe Nowak, Select Board

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Fassell called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The board members need to approve the minutes of June 9th, and August 18<sup>th</sup> 2022.

*A motion made by member Lipinski, seconded by member Deane, to approve the minutes of September 29<sup>th</sup> 2022 as written. Motion passed. Vote unanimous.*

**REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION:** Filed by Berkshire Gas Company, requesting determination of whether the work depicted on the plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed project involves gas main abandonment and replacement at the Fisk St. and Forest Park Ave. intersection.

Chair Fassell announced that since these RDAs would be quick he wanted to move them up on the agenda.

Mr. Coughlin added that he thought that all of these were exempt.

*A motion made by member Melito, seconded by member Bordeaux, to change the agenda and have the RDAs go first. Motion passed, vote unanimous.*

Chair Fassell announced the next item on the agenda and invited the applicant to present their case.

Mr. Scalise explained that the work would require three open excavation sites that would be closed each day and protected with straw waddles.

Mr. Coughlin asked if everything was within the existing roadway. Mr. Scalise responded that they were.

Mr. Coughlin responded that since this fit the criteria for minor exempt activity that he would recommend a negative determination.

*A motion made by member Lipinski, seconded by member Bordeaux, to issue a negative determination two for the application filed by Berkshire Gas Company, requesting determination of whether the work depicted on the plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed project involves gas main abandonment and replacement at the Fisk St. and Forest Park Ave. intersection. Motion passed, vote unanimous.*

**REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION: Filed by Berkshire Gas Company, requesting determination of whether the work depicted on the plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed project involves rectifier installation and connection to the gas main on the Quality St. roadway.**

Chair Fassell announced the next item on the agenda.

Mr. Scalise explained that the project would be to protect several miles of steel main from erosion by setting up a rectifier and placing anodes to provide an electrical current.

Mr. Scalise explained that this project would have erosion controls and that they would be doing their excavation on the side of the road.

Mr. Scalise explained that this would not be a long project and would be finished within a few days.

Member Lipinski asked what the applicant was looking for in terms of a determination.

Mr. Scalise responded that he was looking for a negative determination.

Mr. Coughlin asked if the project would be contained to the road side, Mr. Scalise confirmed that it would be.

*A motion made by member Lipinski, seconded by member Melito, to issue a negative determination two for the application filed by Berkshire Gas Company, requesting determination of whether the work depicted on the plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed project involves rectifier installation and connection to the gas main on the Quality St. roadway. Motion passed, vote unanimous.*

**REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION: Filed by Berkshire Gas Company, requesting determination of whether the work depicted on the plan(s) referenced is subject to the**

**Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed project involves gas main abandonment and replacement in the area between Gavin Ave. and Winter St.**

Chair Fassell announced the next item on the agenda and invited the applicant to present their case.

Mr. Scalise explained that the plan for this project was to abandon the main and to install a new main for the local customers to use.

Mr. Scalise explained that there would be erosion controls in place for both sides of the river and that they would install silt fences in the catch basins.

Chair Fassell commented on the history of the area.

*A motion made by member Melito, seconded by member Burdick, to issue a negative determination two for the application filed by Berkshire Gas Company, requesting determination of whether the work depicted on the plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed project involves gas main abandonment and replacement in the area between Gavin Ave. and Winter St. Motion passed, vote unanimous.*

**REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION: Filed by Berkshire Gas Company, requesting determination of whether the work depicted on the plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed project involves gas main abandonment and replacement in the area between Gavin Ave. and Winter St.**

Chair Fassell announced the next item on the agenda and invited the applicant to present their case.

Mr. Biddy explained that there were some old pipes that they had found leaking and that they wanted to abandon the steel pipe and replace it with a plastic one.

Mr. Biddy explained that there would be erosion control measures in place and that all catch basins would be protected with silk fences.

Member Lipinski asked if this constituted an emergency.

Mr. Biddy explained that while it was a serious problem, it was not an emergency at this point.

Member Lipinski asked what the timeline of the projects looked like.

Mr. Biddy responded that it was going start as soon as possible and take a varying amount of time depending on the project but should not be more than two weeks.

*A motion made by member Melito, seconded by member Lipinski, to issue a negative determination two for the application filed by Berkshire Gas Company, requesting determination of whether the work depicted on the plan(s) referenced is subject to the*

*Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed project involves gas main abandonment and replacement in the area between Gavin Ave. and Winter St.*

**CONTINUATION OF NOTICE OF INTENT: Filed by White Engineering, Inc. for B&B Micro Manufacturing. The proposed project is to construct a driveway and parking lot expansion on a property located within a 100-foot buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetlands area.**

Chair Fassell announced the next item on the agenda and invited the applicant to present their case.

Chair Fassell explained that this project had been completed already but that the applicant was not aware that they needed to file with the conservation commission so they were doing that now.

The applicants were not able to attend this meeting and asked if the meeting could be continued to a later date.

*A motion made by member Lipinski, seconded by member Bordeaux, to continue the application filed by White Engineering, Inc. for B&B Micro Manufacturing to a meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 at six pm. Motion passed, vote unanimous.*

**NOTICE OF INTENT: Filed by Fuss & O'Neill on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The proposed project involves maintenance improvements to the trail surface and drainage on parts of the Old Adams Road Trail located within a wetland resource area.**

Chair Fassell announced the next item on the agenda and invited the applicant to present their case.

Mr. Jahnige introduced himself, then explained that the project was to repair a snowmobile trail bridge.

Ms. Baxton brought plans up to the board and showed where the resource areas were located.

Ms. Baxton explained that the replacement and repairs were in kind and would not be creating any new degraded areas.

Member Lipinski asked what the process was going to be.

Mr. Jahnige responded that they would use small machinery and hand tools for the project.

Member Melito asked if the bridge was vandalized or if it was degraded due to natural factors.

Mr. Jahnige responded that it was natural factors by what they could tell.

Ms. Baxton explained that the project was looked at by other organizations and that they approved of the project.

Mr. Jahnige went over the comments that the project had received from DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) and the responses from DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation).

Mr. Nowak asked for the board to make sure the cold-water fisheries are going to be protected.

Mr. Jahnige asked if they could add another piece to the project.

Member Lipinski said that the paperwork would need to be proper and that since this wasn't included that they would have to look at this as a different case.

Mr. Coughlin recommended the following potential conditions: (1) that the erosions controls be inspected one day prior to the work starting by a member of town staff or a conservation member, (2) that no machinery be used inside the resource area other than the river, (3) no vegetation shall be removed outside of the trail area.

*A motion made by member Lipinski, seconded by member Bordeaux, to approve the application filed by Fuss & O'Neill on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, with general conditions and three additional conditions as follow; (1) that the erosions controls be inspected one day prior to the work starting by a member of town staff or a conservation member, (2) that no machinery be used inside the resource area other than the river, (3) no vegetation shall be removed outside of the trail area. Motion passed, vote unanimous.*

**CONTINUATION OF CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE: Filed by the Town of Adams. The certificate is in relation to the Order of Conditions issued for the Notice of Intent project of the demolition and removal of the existing damaged culvert pipe at property located near the intersection of Davis Street and Lime Streets.**

Chair Fassell announced the next item on the agenda and invited the applicants to present their case.

The members agreed that they thought that the project went well and passed their inspections as they've all done individually.

*A motion made by member Melito, seconded by member Lipinski, to issue a certificate of completion for the application filed by the Town of Adams. The certificate is in relation to the Order of Conditions issued for the Notice of Intent project of the demolition and removal of the existing damaged culvert pipe at property located near the intersection of Davis Street and Lime Streets. Motion passed, vote unanimous.*

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

**REVIEW MAIL:**

**ADJOURN:**

Chair Fassell motioned to adjourn at 7:25 pm, seconded by Member Lipinski, passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Isaiah Moore, Recording Secretary**

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**Date**