

Conservation Commission Meeting (via zoom)

June 9, 2021

4:30 PM

Chairman Frank Lombardi Called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

Members Present: Frank Lombardi- Chairman, Valerie Yelton, Don LaPlante, Edie Worcester, Marcia Hammon, and Marsha Lombardi

Frank reviews events from and since last meeting. Eversource submitted dredge and fill permit with the State on May 12th. Commission has 40 days to submit comments. Eversource did not change any towers as WCC had requested of them before submitting the application.

Don feels that Eversource has been insulting and “thumbing their nose” at WCC throughout this process, and Commission seems to agree. Valerie feels that large companies like this seem to just throw money at small towns and move on with what they want to do without concern for the little people. She feels like we are being used, and that simply accepting money in exchange for support feels like prostitution.

Frank says he corresponded with Jeremy Fennell of Eversource, presenting projects and attempting to get approval from the State to have our project included in the application. He never heard back from Lori Summers at the state, and Jeremy is acting as though we don't have shovel ready projects. Jeremy said that if they give us money directly, we don't have to adhere to the same specifications that we would accepting money from the ARM fund.

Don and Valerie are still insulted that Eversource is just trying to buy us off for \$3,000. Frank says that when there are impacts on wetlands, these shovel ready projects are intended to offset that. WCC is an advisory board, and not in a position to be able to approve or deny the project. Our place is to submit a recommendation to the Site Evaluation Committee with our stand on the project, and request changes to the project if necessary. We want to look ahead and consider that there are large amounts of funds coming this way in the next six months to a year and we want to have projects ready so we can get the money without having to go through the ARM fund, competing with other towns for the funds.

Don says we should be contacting the state with complaints about how Eversource has handled this and how the state has not been in touch with us. We had no advance notice, it was the 11th hour when we found out about the project. They should have made contact a year ago so we would have time to prepare projects and

we have been treated unfairly. In addition, every time we contact the state – who is supposed to be safeguarding our natural resources – we get no response. We're getting steamrolled by Eversource and ignored by DES, what do we do? How are we supposed to stand up for our community environmental issues in the face of a corporate entity?

The group works together to draft a letter to the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions. They then review Jeremy Fennel's response to Frank's letter that Eversource should not have submitted their application without first settling mitigation with us. They decide they will draft up a response letter to him and draft a letter to DES.

Next meeting will be June 23rd at 4:00. Don moves to adjourn, Valerie seconds. Meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank L. Lobb". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.