

**SOMERSWORTH SITE REVIEW TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 4, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Shanna B. Saunders, Tim Metivier, Mike Bobinsky, Scott McGlynn,  
George D. Kramlinger and Paul Robidas

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Timothy McLin

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dana Crossley, Planning Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

**1) Approval of the minutes:**

Robidas MOTIONED to accept the January 2, 2020 minutes.

Bobinsky SECONDED the motion.

The MOTION CARRIES by a 6-0 vote.

**2) OLD BUSINESS**

- A) Any old business that may come before the Committee.  
No old business discussed.

**3) NEW BUSINESS**

- A) **Green Mountain Power Corporation, is seeking a conditional use permit for complete replacement of four underground penstock pipe sections associated with the hydropower dam on a property located at 80 Olde Mill Road, in the R2A (Residential Duplex/A) District, Assessor's Map 02 Lot 02, CUP#01-2020**

Applicant Statement: **John Tedesco**, of Green Mountain Power Corporation was in attendance to represent the application. Also in attendance was **Justin Reed**, Project Manager from PC Construction and **Seth Bentley**, Plant Operator from Bancroft Construction.

Tedesco stated this site is licensed by FERC and is part of the DES Dam Safety Program. He stated in 2013 the penstocks failed. He stated this proposal is to replace the penstocks in-kind. He stated they have been in place since the 80's when the plant was constructed. He stated they expect the replacement penstocks to last for 50 years.

Saunders asked for information on the temporary parking plan. Tedesco stated this project was previously scheduled to commence last year, but due to the details it has now all come together to put into motion. He stated the majority of the project site will be in the lower parking lot. He stated the apartment tenants will need to access the building from an alternate route and expects it would be from above. He stated they are working closely with the property owner to ensure there is safe egress.

Saunders asked if the new parking spots will be paved. Reed stated yes.

Saunders asked if the new spots would remain paved after construction. Reed stated the apartment building owner has requested to keep those spots after construction.

Tedesco stated the project also requires a shoreland permit through the State. He stated they have received approval of that permit.

Saunders asked for more information on the erosion control. Reed stated most of the excavation will be below grade. He stated there will be temporary spoils on site with erosion control.

Metivier clarified there is a natural berm. Reed stated yes.

Saunders asked what the project timeline is. Reed stated they are looking to mobilize in mid-May and expect to be finished by October. He stated it is a 4 to 5 month project.

Saunders asked what the emergency protocol is if there is a 100 or 500 year storm. Bentley stated if they got a storm similar to those in 2006 or 2007 it would flood the excavation site. He stated with the proximity of the river and its size, they would just have to wait it out.

There was a brief discussion on moving the start date and spring/fall storms.

Saunders asked if the DES permit requires a boom on site. Tedesco stated he has not read through the permit yet, but they typically keep one on site. Bentley stated they maintain an oil boom on site, as that is normally their biggest concern.

Saunders noted this is a drinking water source for many surrounding communities.

McGlynn asked if the existing power house has a domestic water supply or if they would be adding one. Tedesco stated no to both.

Bobinsky requested the applicant supply emergency contact information. Reed stated they would be developing a site specific safety plan.

There was a brief discussion on the requirement of a pre-construction meeting. The Board was in favor of holding a pre-con meeting.

Bobinsky asked what the penstocks are made of. Reed stated they are steel and there may be some concrete around them.

Saunders asked if the new penstocks are on site. Tedesco stated they have been ordered.

There was a brief discussion of Olde Mill Road.

Kramlinger asked if there is going to be trench like excavation. Reed stated one near the building.

Kramlinger stated his one concern would be of confined spaces and access to those spaces in an emergency. He asked for information on the depth and diameter that will be worked in.

Reed stated there will be 185 linear feet for the penstocks and the penstock's vary from 62" to 8'.

Kramlinger clarified the smallest space a human being would be in. Bentley stated 62".

Kramlinger asked if there will be atmospheric monitoring. Tedesco stated yes.

Metivier stated his concern is to ensure any interruption to the existing pedestrian paths would need to be maintained. He stated this would include guardrails, ramps and the like. He stated with the moving of the parking spots, if they need to construct a bridge to traverse over the construction site that would require a building permit.

Saunders asked if they anticipate having to move built structures. Reed stated they expect to move a set of stairs.

Metivier stated replacement stairs or other temporary structures will require a building permit. Reed asked if they maintain what is there if they need a permit. Metivier stated no.

Robidas asked if there are special safety requirements for working next to a river, like to have a boat on site. Tedesco stated there are fences and barriers between the construction site and the river.

Reed explained this project work is known as 'working in the dry'.

Saunders stated from conversation she has gathered that they would recommended this project be scheduled to be heard by the Planning Board, after Conservation review with the following conditions:

1. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled and held prior to the start of any work, please contact the Department of Development Services to schedule;
2. The applicant shall submit a safety plan to the Fire Department prior to the start of construction; and
3. Any stair replacements or temporary structures shall require a building permit.

Bobinsky asked if there will be any traffic control required for the delivery of the penstocks. Reed stated they did not expect so because the longest section is 40' and they would mostly be traveling through Berwick.

Kramlinger asked if the company has confined space equipment for use in an emergency situation on site. Reed stated they are trained in confined space safety.

MOTION: Robidas stated I move to recommend this project to be sent to the Planning Board for review.

The MOTION is SECONDED by Bobinsky.

The MOTION CARRIES by a 6-0 vote.

**B) Any other new business that may come before the Committee.**

Saunders stated Chief Hoyle was the designated vice chair of this committee. She stated they would need to address the nomination of a new vice chair.

MOTION: McGlynn stated I nominate Bobinsky to be the vice chairman.

The NOMINATION is SECONDED by Robidas.

The NOMINATION CARRIES by a 6-0 vote.

MOTION: Robidas MOTION to ADJOURN at 10:56 am.

The MOTION is SECONDED by Bobinsky.

The MOTION CARRIES by a 6-0 vote.

Respectively submitted:

Dana Crossley, Planning Secretary  
Site Review Technical Committee