

Village of Croton-on-Hudson
Water Control Commission Meeting of
October 15, 2014

PRESENT: Stuart Greenbaum, Chair
Ian Arturo
Mark Goldfarb
Charles Kane
Gail Sasso

ALSO PRESENT: Daniel O'Connor, Village Engineer

1. Call to Order:

The Water Control Commission Meeting of October 15, 2014 was called to order at 7:33 P.M.

2. Old Business:

- a) **Con Edison Corporation - Hessian Hills Road (Sec. 68.09 Blk. 4 Lot 1) -**
Application for Wetlands Activity Permit for removal of 20 trees and various saplings within wetlands buffer area from property on which electrical transmission line is located.

Michael Amato, Field Operations Planner, was present again to represent Con Edison. He gave a brief recap of the proposed project. He said it was similar to the 2011 project. He said the cyclical vegetation management nature of the project was for safety issues as well as maintaining the electrical system. The 20 trees marked for removal on the survey would be marked in the field and there would be no planned soil disturbance. He said the work was scheduled for December in the hope that the ground would be frozen in the event that skidding or pulling of large tree trunks is needed. He also said that Con Edison is committed to additional reasonable cleanup of the area beyond the removal of just the 20 trees.

Chairman Greenbaum asked how Con Edison will co-ordinate and communicate with neighbors at the site location. Mr. Amato replied once they have the permit and acceptable working hours, the neighbors would be given 30 days notice by hand delivered notification. An 800 number would be available during working hours as well as two qualified arborists.

Chairman Greenbaum followed up with a question regarding planned remediation of the surrounding area once the trees are cut. Mr. Amato replied that industry best practices would be utilized. A native wetland meadow seed mix would be used for reseeded.

Without any other questions from the Board, Chairman Greenbaum then asked if any members of the public had any comments.

Maureen Helbig, residing at 220 Hessian Hills Road, stepped forward to ask if the contractors who will be doing the actual work will be licensed. Mr. Kane replied that after

making inquiries, he found out that for commercial properties, the contractors do not have to be licensed in Westchester County. Ms. Helbig then read a letter from Elissa and Jason Holzman of 218 Hessian Hills Road, who were unable to attend tonight's meeting. (Having only one copy, Ms. Helbig said she would email a copy of the letter to the ZBA Secretary for the record.) The letter thanked the Board for the site visit that had taken place this past weekend and also expressed their concerns regarding the project. Ms. Helbig then also thanked the Board for arranging the site visit and said she thought it was helpful to have the neighbors and Con Edison as well as the Board at the site visit. She said there had been a lot of frustration and having the site visit gave her a better understanding of the proposed project. Concerned about conditions on her land, and to prevent further damage, she said she hoped the Board would ask for certain provisions should the Board grant the permit. She also asked for the 800 number which Mr. Amato provided along with a pamphlet entitled "Trees and Our Transmission Lines – What You Need to Know".

Elizabeth Keller, residing at 224 Hessian Hills Road, spoke next. She asked for clarification of the remediation and the cleanup. Mr. Amato said that native wetland seed mixture would be used in the areas that had not re-vegetated. As far as cleanup, Mr. Amato said that they would talk to the affected neighbors on a one-to-one basis to determine what each neighbor felt was reasonable cleanup.

Ms. Keller followed up with a question as to who she should contact should there be a problem. Mr. Kane said she should contact Mr. Amato first, and if she should fail to get a response, she should then contact the Village Engineer.

Mr. Amato said the trees to be removed would all be marked with barricade tape and a green blaze as per the survey submitted. He also added that under 3 inches in diameter was the threshold for the definition of a sapling.

Chairman Greenbaum then read the draft resolution with the attached conditions. Mr. Goldfarb made a motion to approve the application with the conditions specified. Ms. Sasso seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 5 to 0. The Board then granted the Wetlands Activity Permit.

Mr. Kane then commented that the site visit was helpful and that the Board was appreciative of the neighbors' participation and concern for the project.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Kane made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2014 meeting of the Water Control Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arturo and was passed with a vote of 5 to 0.

4. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20P.M.

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Respectfully submitted,

Toni Cruz
Secretary, Water Control Commission