



# TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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[www.exeternh.gov](http://www.exeternh.gov)

## PUBLIC NOTICE EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### Monthly Meeting

The Exeter Conservation Commission will in the Nowak Room, Exeter Town Offices  
at 10 Front Street, Exeter on **Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.**

#### **Call to Order:**

1. Introduction of Members Present
2. Public Comment

#### **Action Items:**

1. Exeter Trail Race (Ri Fahnestock)
2. Wetland and Shoreland Conditional Use Permit applications for 5 pole replacements within the existing A126 Electric Transmission Line corridor, Exeter, NH (Kristopher Wilkes)
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Property Management
    - i. Milkweed for Whites Meadow: Expenditure approval if desired - shipping cost only
  - b. Trails
    - i. Trail Work Day Report - Expenditure approval- Trail Bridge fasteners
  - c. Outreach Events
    - i. Alewife Festival 5/14
    - ii. Geocaching Event Planning TBD
    - iii.
4. Approval of Minutes: April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting
5. Correspondence
6. Other Business
7. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (6/14/22), Submission Deadline (6/3/22)

*Andrew Koff*

*Exeter Conservation Commission*

*Posted May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Exeter Town Website [www.exeternh.gov](http://www.exeternh.gov) and Town Office kiosk.*

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#### **ZOOM Public Access Information:**

Virtual Meetings can be watched on Channel 22 and on Exeter TV's Facebook and YouTube pages.

To participate in public comment, click this link: <https://exeternh.zoom.us/j/84837950762>

To participate via telephone, call: +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Webinar ID: 848 3795 0762

Please join the meeting with your full name if you want to speak.

Use the "Raise Hand" button to alert the chair you wish to speak. On the phone, press \*9.

More instructions for how to participate can be found here: <https://www.exeternh.gov/townmanager/virtual-town-meetings>

**Contact us at [extvg@exeternh.gov](mailto:extvg@exeternh.gov) or 603-418-6425 with any technical issues.**

**TOWN OF EXETER  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

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Date: May 6, 2022  
To: Conservation Commission Board Members  
From: Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner  
Subject: May 10<sup>th</sup> Conservation Commission Meeting

**1. Exeter Trail Race (Ri Fahnestock)**

This race has been annual event around fathers day for many years (covid excepting).

*Suggested Motion:*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Approve the event agreement for Exeter Trail Race on 6/18/22.*

**2. Wetland and Shoreland Conditional Use Permit applications for 5 pole replacements within the existing A126 Electric Transmission Line corridor, Exeter, NH (Kristopher Wilkes)**

The applicant has been before you in the past for pole replacements/upgrades. This is a new project but follows similar approach.

***Suggested Motion for Wetland Conditional Use Permit:***

\_\_\_\_\_ *We reviewed this application and feel the need to **table the application to a date certain** due to insufficient information on criteria necessary for the Commission to make a recommendation to the planning board as noted below: We recommend the required information be submitted by the next meeting submission deadline of \_\_\_\_\_ to be heard at the \_\_\_\_\_ conservation commission meeting date.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *We have reviewed this application and have **no objection** to the approval of the conditional use permit as proposed.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *We have reviewed this application and recommend that the wetland conditional use permit be **(approved with conditions) (denied)** as noted below:*

***Suggested Motion for Shoreland Conditional Use Permit:***

\_\_\_\_\_ *We reviewed this application and feel the need to **table the application to a date certain** due to insufficient information on criteria necessary for the Commission to make a recommendation to the planning board as noted below: We recommend the required information be submitted by the next meeting submission deadline of \_\_\_\_\_ to be heard at the \_\_\_\_\_ conservation commission meeting date.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *We have reviewed this application and have **no objection** to the approval of the conditional use permit as proposed.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *We have reviewed this application and recommend that the wetland conditional use permit be **(approved with conditions) (denied)** as noted below:*

**3. I can provide updates for the remaining items at the meeting.**

**Exeter Conservation Commission  
Event Agreement**

*NOTE: This agreement is in addition to permits required by the Town of Exeter.  
Contact the Town Managers Office to determine any additional permit needs*

Event Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Event Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Estimate of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please read, sign and initial below. A copy of the notice of Authorization will be provided to you upon signature by the Conservation Commission and should be in hand on the day of the event.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to comply with the following terms for the above referenced event.

\_\_\_\_\_ Event related activities do not involve private property, unless authorized in writing by landowner, with such permission provided to the Conservation Commission 2 days prior to the event.

\_\_\_\_\_ Two (2) days prior to the event, the course conditions will be inspected. If trails are wet, the event will be cancelled or re-routed to avoid wet conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Inspection of trail conditions will be with the Conservation Commission's representative prior to and after the event. Trails will be returned to pre-event conditions within 7 days following the event.

\_\_\_\_\_ The event will be cancelled if rain occurs after the inspection or on the day of the race

\_\_\_\_\_ All litter will be removed within 24 hours following the event

\_\_\_\_\_ A map of the planned route is attached

\_\_\_\_\_ Trail markings shall be non-permanent

\_\_\_\_\_ Organizers are responsible for making arrangements for parking at Department of Public Works (if applicable), police and traffic control, and provisions for port-a-potties at their expense.

Date/Time of

Date/Time of

Pre-run Inspection \_\_\_\_\_

Post-run Inspection \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Event Point of Contact

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Conservation Commission

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

the *Exeter*  
trail race

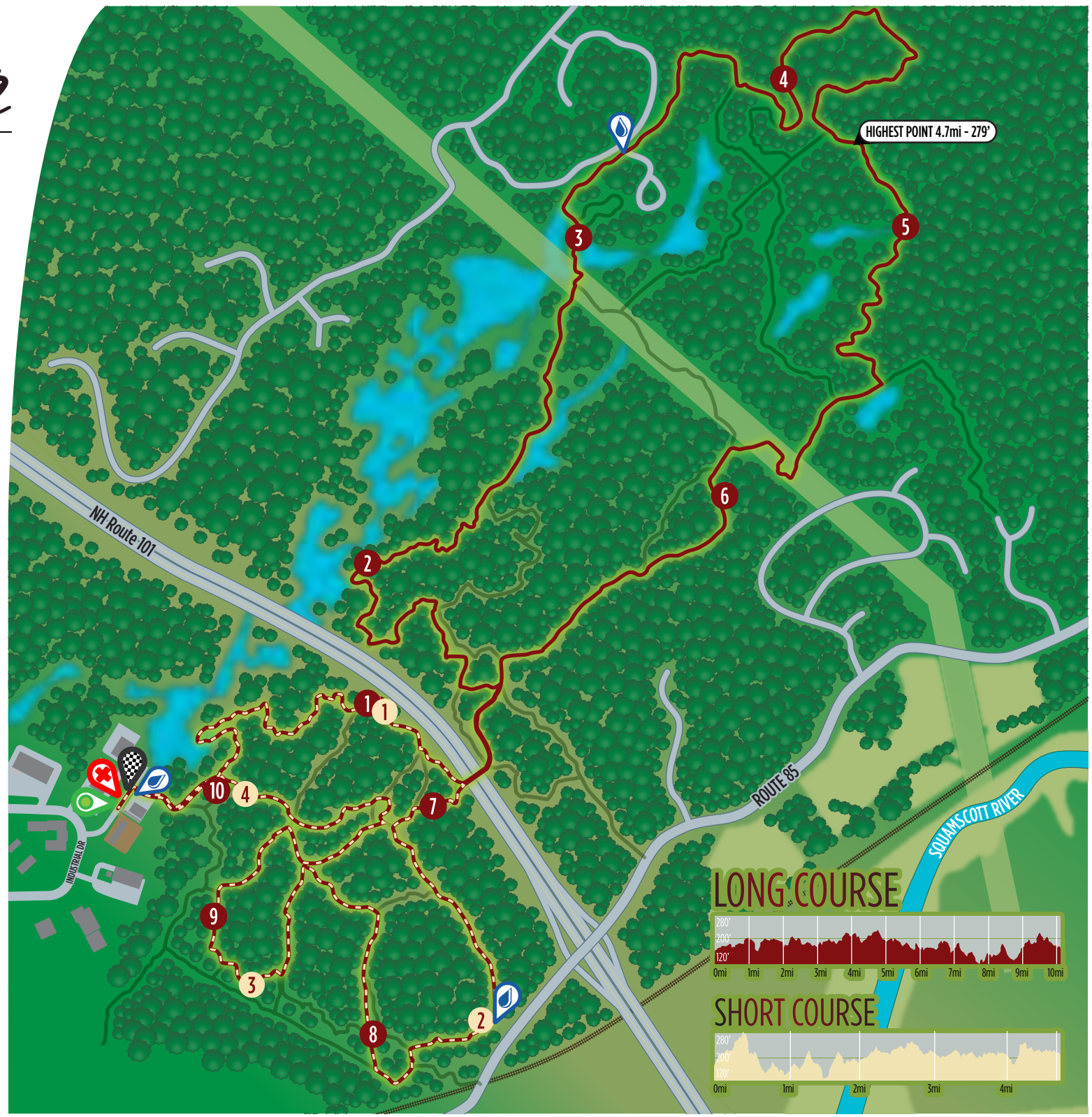
**10 MILE** LONG COURSE  
**4.5 MILES** SHORT COURSE

One of the most popular trail running and mountain biking networks in the northeast, the Henderson-Swasey & Oaklands Town Forest - better known as Fort Rock - is located just minutes from downtown Exeter, NH. As the names imply, the entire system runs through scenic New England forest, and the trails have gained a reputation for their challenging rock-gardens and root-yards. Fortunately, those who run there often know they also feature plenty of flowing soft needle-cushioned sections well suited for speed. Indeed, these trails have gained their popularity for a reason and whether it's technical trail running, smooth single track, or just the serenity of a run in the woods, search no further, the Exeter Trail Race has it all.

For those looking for the "full" experience the race features a 10 mile course as it's "premier" event, as well as a 4.5 mile course for those who want to experience the highlights of the trails with a little less commitment. Though the starting point will be the same for both races, a wave start between the two distances will help ease course congestion. While the 4.5 mile course will be run entirely in the Henderson-Swasey Town Forest, after 1.5 miles the 10 mile runners will detour under route 101 and into the Oaklands for 6 miles and return back through the tunnel to finish the remainder of the short course. Water stops will be located at approximately 3.5 and 7.5 miles on the 10 mile course. There will be one water stop on the 4.5 mile course at 2 miles, and the start/finish will be supplied with water and other post-race refreshments.

LONG COURSE LONG COURSE

START FINISH WATER/AID MEDICAL





April 29, 2022

Ref: 52889.00

Dave Sharples, Town Planner  
Town of Exeter Planning Board  
10 Front Street  
Exeter, NH 03833

Re: Town of Exeter Conditional Use Permit Applications: Wetlands Conservation Overlay District & Shoreland Protection District - A126 Electric Transmission Line, Exeter, NH

Dear Mr. Sharples,

On behalf of Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) d/b/a Eversource Energy, VHB is submitting Conditional Use Permit Applications to the Town of Exeter Planning Board for proposed utility maintenance along the existing A126 115-kV transmission line right-of-way (ROW) in Exeter. The Conditional Use Permit Applications are being submitted in accordance with *Article 9* of the Town's Zoning Ordinance. Conditional Use Permits are required for the proposed maintenance work to allow for temporary impacts to wetlands and their respective buffers protected under the Wetlands Conservation Overlay District (*Article 9.1.3*), and to allow for temporary impacts within the 150-foot buffer of an unnamed perennial stream within the Squamscott River HUC 12 Watershed protected under the Shoreland Protection District (*Article 9.3.3*). A Utility Maintenance Activity Statutory Permit-by-Notification for the proposed project will be submitted to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to cover temporary wetland impacts at the state level. Upon submittal of these applications, VHB and PSNH intend on attending the Exeter Conservation Commission meeting on May 10, 2022, followed by a hearing date with the Planning Board on May 26, 2022.

### **Project Description**

PSNH intends to replace five (5) existing 115-kV transmission structures along the A126 transmission line within the limits of the existing ROW corridor between Route 101 eastbound and the Exeter/Brentwood Town Line (east of Pine Road), and approximately 1,500 feet west of Captain's Way, located to the west of Newfields Road/Route 85. The proposed work is part of PSNH's on-going maintenance program conducted to ensure reliable electric service for their customers. The PSNH 115-kV transmission system is an integral part of the regional power system delivering electricity to customers throughout New England. It is critical that the 115-kV system remain operational without interruption from preventable outages.

Existing electric transmission line structures proposed for replacement consist of a two-pole wood H-frame configuration and will be replaced with two-pole weathered steel H-frame structures to meet current industry standards. The most common reason wood poles need replacement is woodpecker damage and internal rot. All the replacement structures will be installed directly in-kind or within 10-feet from their existing locations. Generally, the structures will increase in height ranging from 5-20 feet higher than those existing in order to meet current vertical clearance standards. Lastly, associated guy support

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wires and anchors will be replaced. Contingent upon permit approval, work is proposed to commence in early to mid-July 2022. Refer to **Figure 1**, Project Permitting Plans, for more information.

#### Proposed Access and Construction Methods

The proposed work will occur within the limits of the existing cleared transmission line ROW and no additional widening/clearing of the ROW is proposed. Work crews intend to access Structures 200, 201 and 202 immediately west of Route 101 eastbound by utilizing an existing driveway associated with a commercial/industrial business located along Pine Road in Brentwood. Work crews intends to access Structures 166 and 167 directly off of Captain's Way. Access within the ROW to Structures 200-202 will be gained utilizing upland matting or tracked equipment in order to avoid ground disturbance and grading in most areas. Crews plan to follow an existing established access trail within the ROW to reach Structures 166 and 167 off of Captain's Way.

Timber matting will be used at three locations where existing wetlands intersect the proposed ROW access, and at two locations where existing wetlands intersect the approximately 100-foot by 100-foot construction work pad required to stage equipment and crews around each structure during its replacement. Timber matting greatly reduces soil disturbance and rutting and is required per the conditions of the NHDES permit approval. Any construction laydown areas required for equipment and material staging while the maintenance work is carried out will be situated in upland areas along the existing ROW corridor. Once access and work pads are established, the new steel poles will be installed either through direct embedment or constructed on a caisson foundation. Traditional auguring and installation procedures will be used. Any excess excavated spoils will be spread to match existing topography and stabilized with seed and straw mulch cover within adjacent upland areas of the ROW (outside of NHDES jurisdiction). *No poles or associated work pads are proposed to be installed within the bed and/or banks of any surface water, or the jurisdictional limits of any wetland present along the ROW.*

Prior to accessing the ROW with construction equipment, crews will install erosion and sediment control barriers in accordance with permitting plans and details, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) conditions, and the *Best Management Practices Manual for Utility Maintenance in and Adjacent to Wetlands and Waterbodies in New Hampshire* (or "Utility BMP Manual," March 2019), published by the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NHDNCR). Selected best management practices (BMPs) may include silt sock, silt fence, wood chip/compost berms/tubes and/or other approved BMPs. During project construction, control of the spread of invasive species that are currently found within the ROW will also be managed in accordance with NHDES permit conditions and the Utility BMP Manual.

#### Proposed Post-Construction Restoration

As soon as possible after the completion of the structure replacement work, timber matting and all construction debris will be removed from the project ROW and properly disposed of off-site. Stabilization and restoration of disturbed areas/exposed soils will be initiated as timber mats are pulled and structural work is completed. Minimal restoration is anticipated due to the limited impacts of the proposed work, and natural re-colonization of wetlands within the ROW is expected. VHB will visit the project ROW post-construction to assess conditions, provide guidance to work crews on restoration, and to determine



whether or not additional promotion of vegetation (seeding) is required. If required, NHDES approved wetland and upland seed mixes will be placed on affected areas to further promote re-growth. Refer to the Project Plans attached for the location of existing wetlands and surface waters and utility structures, proposed accessways, construction work pads, and timber matting.

### **Wetlands Conservation Overlay District Impacts**

Portions of the proposed project are located within the Town of Exeter Wetlands Conservation Overlay District as outlined in *Article 9.1.3* of the Town's Zoning Ordinance. Temporary impacts related to access and work pad staging will occur directly within wetlands with poorly drained soils and their respective 40-foot Limited Use Buffers. Additionally, temporary impacts associated with access and work pad staging will occur within a NHDES Designated Prime Wetland and its respective 100-foot Limited Use Buffer.

Wetlands along the A126 Line ROW subject to the proposed work were previously delineated by others in support of a previous PSNH project and have been reviewed and confirmed recently by VHB Wetland Scientists as part of this project. Wetland review was performed in accordance with the *1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region, Version 2.0* (January 2012), the *2018 National Wetland Plant List* published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the *Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States, Version 8.2* published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS"), and the *Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, Version 4.0* published by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. Wetland classifications follow the *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin et al., 1979, revised 1985.)

Wetlands within proximity to the proposed structure replacement work consist of Palustrine, Scrub-Shrub, Broad-Leaved Deciduous or Palustrine, Emergent, Persistent cover types with a Seasonally Flooded/Saturated hydrological regime (PSS1E, PEM1E). Most of these wetlands transition to a Palustrine, Forested, Broad-Leaved Deciduous (PFO1) cover type as they extend north and south outside of the existing cleared limits of the ROW. A single unnamed perennial stream flows south to north through the wetland existing to the west of Captain's Way.

The large wetland complex existing south and west of Route 101 eastbound and intersecting a portion of the A126 Line ROW is designated as NHDES Prime Wetland. A timber mat access road is proposed across this wetland in order to minimize impacts and avoid rutting.

Wetland and upland vegetation along the ROW is periodically mechanically cut to maintain safe vertical and horizontal clearance distances from the existing overhead transmission lines, thus maintaining a dense shrub-type habitat. Species typically found within these wetlands include tree species, which are not permitted to grow beyond a sapling growth stage, including red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and species of birch (*Betula* spp.). Common dominant shrub species found within these wetlands include white meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*), steeplebush (*Spiraea tomentosa*), maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*), arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), speckled alder (*Alnus incana*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), Allegheny blackberry (*Rubus*



*alleghehiensis*), and red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*). Palustrine emergent portions of these wetlands are typically dominated by soft rush (*Juncus effuses*), various sedges (*Carex* spp.), narrow and broad-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia* & *Typha latifolia*, respectively), cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), species of goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), blue joint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), joe pye-weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*), sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), sphagnum (*Sphagnum* spp.), species of iris (*Iris* spp.), dark green bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), deer tongue grass (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), bristly dewberry (*Rubis hispides*), and woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*). Finally, a number of invasive plant species are also present such a purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*).

Evidence of wetland hydrology observed during field work included soil saturation, surface water, geomorphic position, drainage patterns, and inundation/saturation visible on aerial imagery. Wetland soils sampled within the ROW generally meet Hydric Soil Indicator F3: Depleted Matrix.

**A total of approximately 3,639 square feet of direct temporary impact is proposed within wetlands with poorly drained soils with approximately 7,738 square feet of temporary impact proposed within their respective 40-foot Limited Use Buffers. Additionally, approximately 3,602 square feet of direct temporary impact is proposed within a NHDES Prime Wetland with approximately 18,331 square feet of temporary impact proposed within its respective 100-foot Limited Use Buffer. No direct impacts are proposed within the banks or bed of a single unnamed perennial stream to the west of Captain’s Way as the channel will be bridged with timber mats from outside its jurisdictional limits.**

The use of an established upland access within the 40 foot buffer zone of Wetlands EW-24 and EW-23 was not calculated as impact since this is an existing trail within the project ROW. Impacts within the Wetland Conservation District Overlay are further outlined in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1: Wetland Conservation District Overlay Impacts**

Wetland ID	Location	Direct Temporary Impact (SF)	Associated Limited Use Buffer Impact (SF)
<b>EW-1 (Poorly Drained)</b>	West of Route 101	517	4,757
<b>EW-2 (Prime Wetland)</b>	West of Route 101	3,602	18,331
<b>EW-23 (Poorly Drained)</b>	West of Captain’s Way	3,122	2,981
<b>Unnamed Perennial Stream</b>	West of Captain’s Way	0	0 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>7,241</b>	<b>26,069</b>

1 – Impacts within the 25’ Limited Use Buffer have been captured under the direct temporary impacts listed for Wetland EW-23.

**Article 9.1.6(B) Conditional Uses - Conditions**

In accordance with the requirements for a Conditional Use Permit, the construction and maintenance of powerlines in the Wetlands Conservation Overlay District is an allowable use if the criteria found in *Article 9.1.6(B)* are met. Evidence that the proposed project meets those criteria is provided below.





**1. That the proposed use is permitted in the underlying zoning district.**

The proposed project is located within zoning districts R-1 (Low Density Residential) and RU (Rural). The existing A126 transmission line ROW has been a permitted use within the current zoning districts since they were established. All project work will be confined within the limits of the existing established ROW with no clearing or widening proposed. The project involves routine maintenance work to an existing transmission line and associated structures that is conducted periodically by PSNH. Since the project aims to improve the reliability of the existing electric transmission system and prevent outages, the project is essential to the productive use of the land within the existing zoning district.

**2. No alternative design which does not impact a wetland or wetland buffer or which has less detrimental impact on the wetland or wetland buffer is feasible.**

The A126 transmission line ROW was established prior to the designation of the Wetlands Conservation Overlay District, and due to the linear nature of the ROW, crosses the Wetlands Conservation Overlay District in numerous locations throughout the Town of Exeter. Access to the ROW is primarily obtained from intersecting public roadways; and, currently established and/or former access trails are typically utilized by work crews to reach the existing electric transmission line infrastructure. Often utilization of existing and/or former ROW trails reduce the need for creation of additional disturbance (road/trail building) within the Wetlands Conservation Overlay District underneath the ROW.

Project impacts to wetlands and their associated buffers were minimized to the maximum extent practicable during the project planning stage. This included modifications to ROW access, the use of upland matting and/or tracked equipment in some areas, and the positioning of structure work pads to stay outside the limits of existing wetlands where possible. Additionally, all wetland crossings proposed will be approached at a 90-degree angle with timber matting in order to limit the crossing width and resultant temporary impact. Finally, the single unnamed perennial stream flowing south to north across the ROW to the west of Captain's Way will be bridged with timber mats in order to avoid bank and/or bed impacts to this surface water. Due to the close proximity of many of the existing structures to the adjacent wetlands, temporary impacts within their respective buffers cannot fully be avoided.

**3. A wetland scientist has provided an impact evaluation that includes the "functions and values" of the wetland(s), an assessment of the potential project-related impacts and concluded to the extent feasible, the proposed impact is not detrimental to the value and function of the wetland(s) or the greater hydrologic system.**

Functions and values of wetlands present along the Project ROW were assessed by VHB using the *Corps Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement* (USACE, 1999). The location of Wetlands EW-1, EW-2, and EW-23 within a cleared ROW corridor, their connectivity to larger complexes that extend outside of the existing ROW edge, the presence of a perennial stream, and the composition of the immediate surrounding landscape (industrial/highway commercial/rural residential) largely dictates



their functions and values. Wetlands to be temporarily impacted by the proposed work are made up of dense scrub-shrub and emergent vegetation which contributes to their capacity to perform water quality and hydrologic functions such as sediment/toxicant/pathogen retention and nutrient removal. Potential sources of pollutants are present from abutting land uses such as commercial/industrial businesses, roadways including Route 101, and maintained residential properties. Their vegetative diversity and position within a linear corridor also contribute to their function to provide wildlife habitat, especially to various bird species. Additionally, their hydrological regime (saturation/inundation) may provide suitable turtle and snake habitat. Lastly, based on the size and landscape position of these wetlands, and their proximity to the built environment and connectivity to perennial streams, they also function to retain floodwaters from sources higher in the watershed and may contribute to groundwater recharge.

The proposed maintenance work will not negatively affect the identified functions and values of these wetlands as project impacts are temporary in nature and over a short duration and will not prevent the impacted wetlands from effectively providing these functions and values following project completion and ROW restoration.

**4. *That the design, construction, and maintenance of the proposed use will, to the extent feasible, minimize detrimental impact on the wetland or wetland buffer.***

The proposed project involves maintenance of an existing transmission line asset which is necessary to maintain an operational electric circuit. Therefore, there are no project alternatives. However, wetland and buffer impacts were minimized to the maximum extent practicable based on field assessments completed by VHB and PSNH which were focused on access and construction staging. Additionally, work crews will conduct all work in accordance with the Utility BMP Manual which includes the deployment of timber matting and erosion and sediment control barriers which are designed to reduce ground disturbance, eliminate rutting, and prevent erosion and sedimentation within sensitive resources including wetlands and surface waters. Additional specific strategies to minimize impacts have been previously outlined under Question 2.

**5. *That the proposed use will not create a hazard to individual or public health, safety and welfare due to the loss of wetland, the contamination of groundwater, or other reasons.***

Proposed structure replacements are part of an ongoing effort by PSNH to refurbish outdated and deficient existing overhead electric transmission infrastructure in the region. Structural and line deficiencies represent a significant reliability risk in terms of line failures and service interruptions to customers. The project will improve the health, safety, and well-being of the general public by enhancing the reliability and operational performance of the existing 115-kV transmission system by reducing the risk of line failures and in turn reducing the potential for outages experienced by customers.

The proposed project only involves temporary impacts to wetlands and their respective buffers. The project will not result in any permanent alterations to wetlands that could impact groundwater or other natural resources. Proposed timber matting is not expected to adversely impact the capacity of



subject wetlands to perform water quantity and/or quality functions but instead will be beneficial by reducing the potential for increased erosion and sediment movement during the construction period. Mats will be monitored daily by the Contractor to ensure they remain clean and free of sediment, so they do not pose a risk of discharge into neighboring wetland and/or streams. Lastly, in addition to matting, appropriate perimeter erosion controls will be installed prior to the start of construction and maintained throughout the duration of the project to reduce the risk of sedimentation into the adjacent wetlands and perennial stream.

**6. *The applicant may propose an increase in wetland buffers elsewhere on the site that surround a wetland of equal or greater size, and of equal or greater functional value than the impacted wetland.***

Criteria 6 is not applicable to the proposed project as the work will not result in any permanent loss to wetlands or their respective buffers. Only temporary impacts resulting from the use of timber matting is proposed and all areas will be restored upon completion of the maintenance work.

**7. *In cases where the proposed use is temporary or where construction activity disturbs areas adjacent to the immediate use, the applicant has included a restoration proposal revegetating any disturbed area within the buffer with the goal to restore the site as nearly as possible to its original grade and condition following construction.***

As soon as possible after the completion of structural replacement work, timber matting and all construction debris will be removed from the project ROW and properly disposed of off-site. Stabilization and restoration of disturbed areas/exposed soils will be initiated as timber mats are pulled and structural work is completed. No grading is proposed within wetland areas. Grading within upland areas associated with access or work pads during project construction, if necessary to create a safe and stable work area, will be restored upon project completion to reduce the lasting overall footprint that was required for construction and to limit environmental risk while retaining access and workable platforms for future maintenance needs.

Restoration of disturbed soils within upland areas surrounding newly installed structures will be stabilized with seed and straw mulch. Coconut fiber erosion control blankets in conjunction with seed will be used to stabilize any slopes greater than 3:1. Minimal restoration is anticipated within wetland areas due to the temporary nature of the impacts. Natural re-colonization/re-bound of wetland vegetation within the project ROW is anticipated once timber mats are removed. VHB will visit the project ROW post-construction to assess conditions, provide guidance to work crews on restoration, and to determine whether or not additional promotion of vegetation (seeding) is required. If required, NHDES approved wetland and upland seed mixes will be placed on affected areas to further promote re-growth.



**8. That all required permits shall be obtained from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Water Supply and Pollution Control Division under NH RSA 485-A:17; the New Hampshire Wetlands Board under NH RSA 483-A, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.**

In accordance with *RSA 482-A:3, XV*, routine utility maintenance work is exempt from the standard wetland permitting process; however, since the proposed project will result in temporary impacts to wetlands, a Utility Maintenance Activity Statutory Permit-by-Notification will be submitted to NHDES as required to cover environmental permitting at the state level. The project also complies with the provisions of a Self-Verification Project under the US Army Corps of Engineers NH General Permit #6: Utility Line Activities, since it involves “The construction, maintenance, relocation, repair, & removal of utility lines” outlined under GP #6(a), and only involves temporary impacts from the placement of timber mats. No permits are required from the NHDES Water Supply and Pollution Control Division.

**Shoreland Protection District Impacts**

A portion of the proposed project will take place within the Town of Exeter Shoreland Protection District as outlined in *Article 9.3.3* of the Town’s Zoning Ordinance. Temporary impacts related to work pad staging associated with the replacement of Structure 166, located west of Captain’s Way, will occur within the 150-foot buffer of an unnamed perennial stream within the Squamscott River HUC 12 sub-watershed (*Article 9.3.3.C.2*). No direct impacts to the banks or bed of this unnamed perennial stream are proposed.

The unnamed perennial stream flows from south to north across the A126 Line ROW between Structures 167 and 166 both proposed for replacement as part of this project. The unnamed perennial stream is classified as Riverine, Unknown Perennial, Unconsolidated Bottom, Mud (R5UB3) and is bordered by Palustrine Scrub-Shrub (PSS) wetland identified as EW-23. The channel is not well defined as it flows through Wetland EW-23 within the limits of the existing ROW.

Due to the location of existing Structure 166 (to be replaced within the limits of an existing established overhead electric utility ROW), temporary impacts within the 150-foot shoreland buffer of the perennial stream are unavoidable. Structure 167, also proposed for replacement, is located outside the 150-foot buffer and therefore will not result in any shoreland district impacts. It is important to note that direct impacts to bed or banks of this perennial stream will be avoided as crews intend to bridge the channel with timber mats during construction. The placement of a timber mat bridge will also allow flow within this channel to move freely during construction.

***Replacement of Structure 166 will result in approximately 7,299 square feet of temporary impact within the 150-foot shoreland buffer of the perennial stream due to the placement of the construction work pad surrounding the structure that is required to accommodate work crew and equipment staging during replacement. However, temporary disturbance associated with the work pad will be entirely located within uplands and erosion control measures will be implemented along the perimeter of the work pad adjacent to the existing wetland and stream resources.***



**Article 9.3.4(G)(2) Conditional Uses - Conditions**

In accordance with the requirements for a Conditional Use Permit, the construction and maintenance of powerlines in the Shoreland Protection District is an allowable use if the conditions found in *Article 9.3.4(G)(2)* are met. Evidence that the proposed project meets these conditions is provided below.

**a. *The proposed use will not detrimentally affect the surface water quality of the adjacent river or tributary, or otherwise result in unhealthy conditions.***

Replacement of Structure 166 along the A126 Transmission Line will occur within the limits of an existing cleared and continuously maintained ROW. Structure 166 will be replaced in-kind (within 10 feet of its existing location) and will not result in any permanent alterations to existing land use and/or landscape composition that could pose a risk to the surface water quality of the perennial stream or the bordering wetland. Structure 166 is located within an upland area and no additional clearing or widening of the ROW is required to replace the structure.

Prior to the commencement of the structure replacement work, crews will install erosion and sediment control barriers in accordance with the Project Plans and NHDES guidance manuals. Selected perimeter erosion and sediment controls including silt fence or wood chip/compost berms/tubes will be installed between the work area and the perennial stream and bordering wetland in order to reduce the risk of sedimentation into these resources which could temporarily impact water quality. Perimeter erosion controls will be inspected and maintained throughout the construction period and will not be removed until the area surrounding Structure 166 is deemed permanently stable based on NHDES guidance. Grading may be necessary immediately surrounding Structure 166 during construction to create a safe and stable work area; however, the limits of grading will be confined to upland areas only within the limits of the structure work pad as shown on the attached Project Plans. This area will be restored upon project completion to reduce the lasting overall footprint that was required for construction and to limit environmental risk while retaining access and workable platforms for future maintenance needs.

**b. *The proposed use will discharge no waste water on site other than that normally discharged by domestic waste water disposal systems and will not involve on-site storage or disposal of hazardous or toxic wastes as herein defined.***

Not applicable – the project does not involve the discharge of waste water and will not require the on-site storage or disposal of hazardous or toxic wastes.

**c. *The proposed use will not result in undue damage to spawning grounds and other wildlife habitat.***

Replacement of Structure 166 will not result in any impacts to spawning grounds as no direct impacts to the banks or bed of the adjacent perennial stream are proposed. The structure replacement work will be confined to an existing cleared and maintained segment of ROW that has been previously disturbed by fill and removal activities associated with the previous construction of the existing transmission lines and structures and ongoing utility maintenance activities.



VHB is currently consulting with the NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) and NH Fish and Game Department regarding the potential presence of state-listed rare plants or animals within the vicinity of the proposed project work. According to a NHB Datacheck Results Letter dated April 12, 2022, NHB issued no comment regarding the potential presence of rare plants or exemplary natural communities as no records exist within proximity to the project.

Records of several rare turtle and snake species as well as the Pied-billed Grebe were identified by NH Fish and Game on the NHB Datacheck Results Letter. VHB intends to work with Eversource to implement the typical protocols relative to avoidance and minimization of these species. This includes the use of wildlife friendly erosion controls, the scheduling of informative trainings with works crews in the field prior to the commencement of work to educate them on the protected status of these species, visual sweeps of project areas prior to the start of construction activities each day, and immediate reporting if any of the listed species are encountered.

**d. *The proposed use complies with the use regulations identified in Article 9.3.4 Exeter Shoreland Protection District Ordinance – Use Regulations and all other applicable sections of this article.***

The project complies with the use regulations identified in *Article 9.3.4* and fits into Conditional Use *Article 9.3.4(G)(1)(c)*, which identifies work along transmission lines and access ways as permissible with a Conditional Use Permit granted by the Planning Board.

**e. *The design and construction of the proposed use will be consistent with the intent of the purposes set forth in Article 9.3.1 Exeter Shoreland Protection District Ordinance – Authority and Purpose.***

The project involves maintenance of existing electric transmission line infrastructure that currently exists within the Shoreland Protection District and does not represent new construction where typically the intent of the purposes set forth in *Article 9.3.1* would need to be addressed. With that said, efforts to maintain and protect the perennial stream and bordering wetland will be pursued while the maintenance work is carried out as previously described above.

## **Floodplains & Floodways**

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), produced for Rockingham County, the project is located within an Area of Minimal Flood Hazard (Zone X) and therefore is not located within the Town of Exeter Floodplain District. The project will not impact any floodplains or floodways.

## **Property Ownership and Abutters**

All proposed work will occur within the limits of an existing transmission line ROW that is either owned in fee or maintained as easement by PSNH. All owners of parcels where impacts to the Wetlands Conservation Overlay District and Shoreland Protection District are to occur, as well as owners of parcels who abut or are located directly across the street from these properties will be notified of the proposed project in accordance with the Town of Exeter's Conditional Use Permit application process. The list of



owners and abutters and the associated tax maps, as well as three copies of abutters labels as required, are included in the Wetlands Conditional Use Permit Application attached.

Due to the location of the work (encompassing both the Wetlands Conservation and Shoreland Protection Districts), one abutter notification is being sent for both applications in accordance with guidance previously provided by the Town of Exeter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at (603) 391-3944 or kwilkes@vhb.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristopher Wilkes'.

Kristopher Wilkes, CWS, CPESC  
Project Manager, Energy and Environmental Services

cc: Jeremy Fennell, PSNH

**Attachments:**

**Town of Exeter Conditional Use Application – Wetlands Conservation District Overlay**

Conditional Use Permit Application – 15 copies  
Figure 1 – Project Permitting Plans – 15 copies bound separately  
Representative Site Photographs – Wetlands CUP

**Town of Exeter Conditional Use Application – Shoreland Protection District**

Conditional Use Permit Application – 15 copies  
Figure 1 – Project Permitting Plans – same as Figure 1 in Wetlands CUP (bound separately)  
Representative Site Photographs – Shoreland CUP

Wetlands & Shoreland CUP Abutters List (one copy bound separately)  
Wetlands & Shoreland CUP Abutter Mailing Labels (3 copies bound separately)





# Town of Exeter



## **Planning Board Application for Conditional Use Permit: Wetlands Conservation Overlay District**

*April 2022*



**Town of Exeter**  
**Planning Board Application**  
**Conditional Use Permit: Wetland Conservation Overlay District**

Detailed Proposal including intent, project description, and use of property: (Use additional sheet as needed)  
 Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) d/b/a Eversource Energy intends to conduct routine maintenance/repair activities along the existing A126 Transmission Line in Exeter. Proposed work includes the replacement of five (5) existing 115-kV transmission structures within the limits of the existing ROW corridor between Route 101 eastbound and the Exeter/Brentwood Town line (just east of Pine Road), and approximately 1,500 feet west of Captain's Way, located to the west of Newfields Road/Route 85. The proposed work is part of PSNH's on-going maintenance program conducted to ensure reliable electric service for their customers. The PSNH 115-kV transmission system is an integral part of the regional power system delivering electricity to customers throughout New England. It is critical that the 115-kV system remain operational without interruption from preventable outages. This Conditional Use Permit Application is being submitted in accordance with *Article 9* of the Town's Zoning Ordinance and is required for the proposed maintenance work to allow for temporary impacts to wetlands and inland streams and their respective buffers protected under the Wetlands Conservation Overlay District (*Article 9.1.3*). Refer to the attached cover letter for additional details.

**Wetland Conservation Overlay District Impact (in square footage):**

Temporary Impact	Wetland:	(SQ FT.)	Buffer:	(SQ FT.)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prime Wetlands	<u>3,602</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prime Wetlands	<u>18,331</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Exemplary Wetlands	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Exemplary Wetlands	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (>200SF)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (>200SF)	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPD	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> VPD	_____
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PD	<u>3,363</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PD	<u>7,381</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Inland Stream	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Inland Stream	_____
Permanent Impact	Wetland:		Buffer:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prime Wetlands	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Prime Wetlands	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Exemplary Wetlands	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Exemplary Wetlands	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (>200SF)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (>200SF)	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPD	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> VPD	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> PD	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> PD	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Inland Stream	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Inland Stream	_____

List any variances/special exceptions granted by Zoning Board of Adjustment including dates:

N/A

Describe how the proposal meets conditions in **Article 9.1.6.B** of the Zoning Ordinance (attached for reference):

Refer to the attached cover letter.

Refer to the attached abutters list.

**ABUTTERS: PLEASE LIST ALL PERSONS WHOSE PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND ADJOINS OR IS DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET OR STREAM FROM THE LAND UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD. THIS LIST SHALL BE COMPILED FROM THE EXETER TAX ASSESSOR'S RECORDS.**

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Refer to the attached cover letter.

- 9.1.6. B: Conditions: Prior to issuance of a conditional use permit, the Planning Board shall conclude and make a part of the record, compliance with the following criteria:
1. That the proposed use is permitted in the underlying zoning district;
  2. No alternative design which does not impact a wetland or wetland buffer or which has less detrimental impact on the wetland or wetland buffer is feasible;
  3. A wetland scientist has provided an impact evaluation that includes the “functions and values” of the wetland(s), an assessment of the potential project-related impacts and concluded to the extent feasible, the proposed impact is not detrimental to the value and function of the wetland(s) or the greater hydrologic system.
  4. That the design, construction and maintenance of the proposed use will, to the extent feasible, minimize detrimental impact on the wetland or wetland buffer;
  5. That the proposed use will not create a hazard to individual or public health, safety and welfare due to the loss of wetland, the contamination of groundwater, or other reasons;
  6. The applicant may propose an increase in wetland buffers elsewhere on the site that surround a wetland of equal or greater size, and of equal or greater functional value than the impacted wetland
  7. In cases where the proposed use is temporary or where construction activity disturbs areas adjacent to the immediate use, the applicant has included a restoration proposal revegetating any disturbed area within the buffer with the goal to restore the site as nearly as possible to its original grade and condition following construction.
  8. That all required permits shall be obtained from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Water Supply and Pollution Control Division under NH RSA §485-A: 17, the New Hampshire Wetlands Board under NH RSA §483-A, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.;

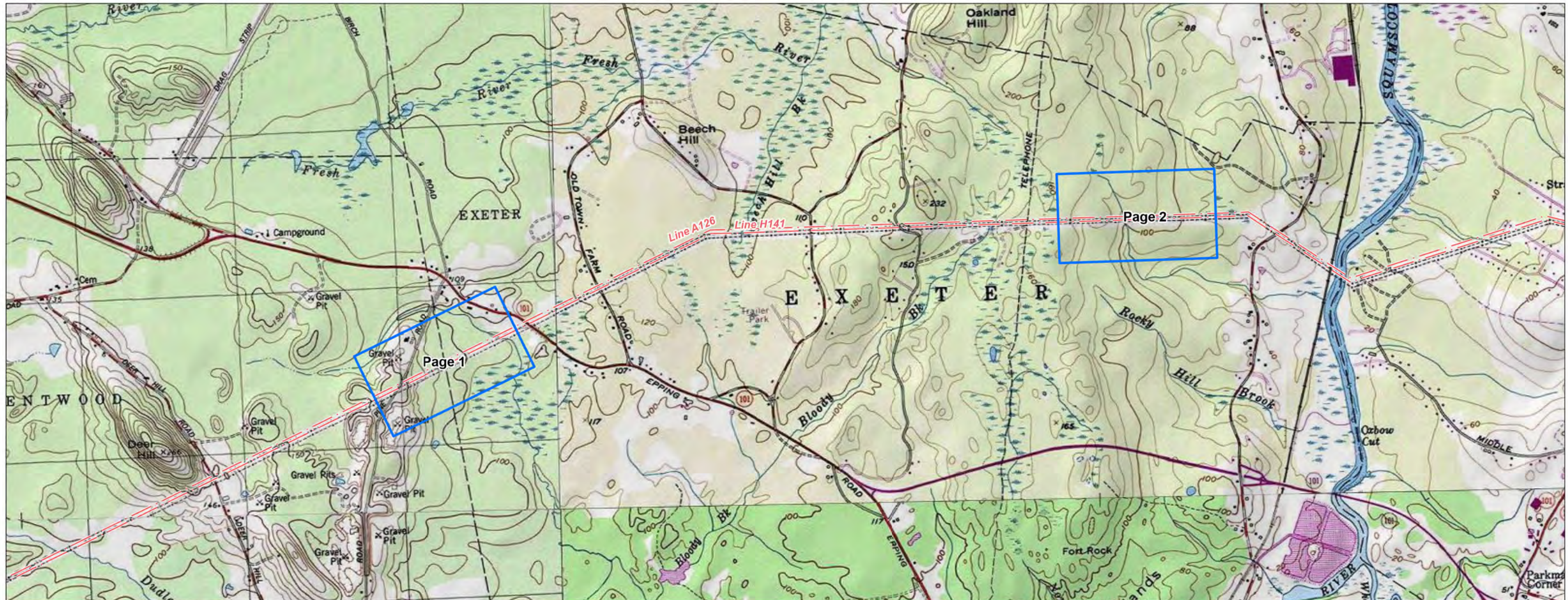


# 2022 - Line A126 - Structure Replacement Project

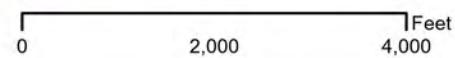
## Exeter, New Hampshire

### Project Plans

Date: April 27, 2022



- Town Boundary
- Overhead Eversource Lines
- Page Index



#### INDEX OF FIGURES

Title Sheet / Index Map  
Map Sheets 1-2

NO.	DATE	REVISIONS

PREPARED FOR:



13 Legends Drive  
Hooksett, NH 03106

PREPARED BY:



2 Bedford Farms Drive Suite 200  
Bedford, NH 03110

**Project Plan Notes**

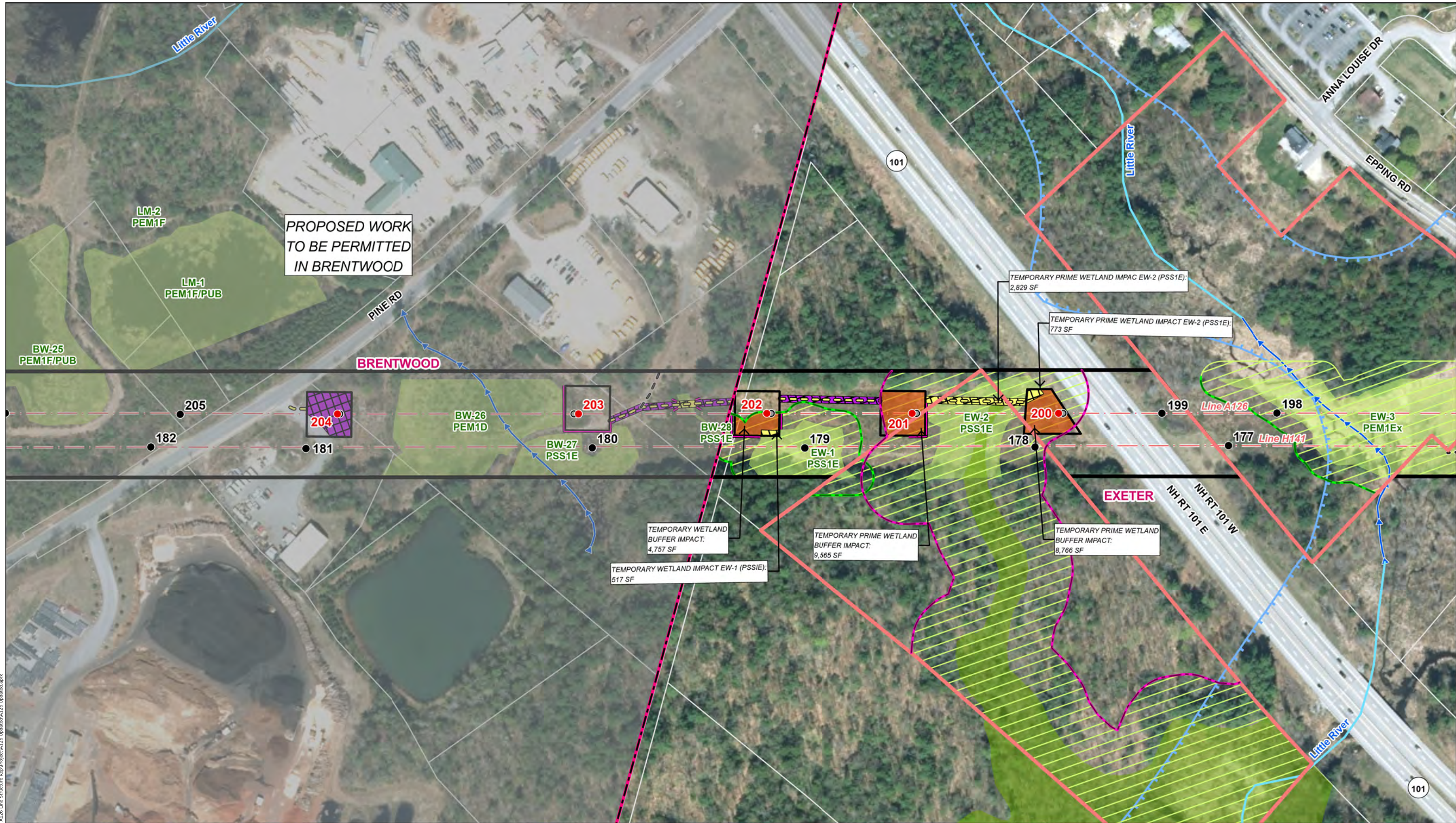
1. This plan set is provided to show jurisdictional impacts and required environmental controls only. Engineering documents should be consulted to determine the scope and location of all other construction activities.
2. Applicant: Public Service Company of New Hampshire, (PSNH) d/b/a Eversource Energy, 13 Legends Drive, Hooksett NH 03106
3. Wetlands were previously delineated along the ROW by others in support of a prior maintenance Line project and have been field reviewed and verified by VHB Wetland Scientists.
4. Wetland delineation/verification was performed to the standards in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region, Version 2.0 (January 2012).
5. Hydric soils were reviewed in accordance with Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in the United States, Version 8.2 published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, Version 4.0 published by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.
6. Dominant wetland vegetation was assessed using the 2018 National Wetland Plant List published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
7. Wetland classifications follow the USFWS methodology Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States (Cowardin et al. 1979, revised 1985).
8. Wetland function and values were assessed using the Corps Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement (USACOE, 1999).
9. Wetland work was performed utilizing a handheld GPS units capable of submeter accuracy.
10. Proposed construction limits of disturbance are approximate. Contractor is responsible for minimizing earth disturbance, as practicable.
11. The environmental controls shown on these plans may need to be supplemented due to season of work or work methods proposed. Refer to BMP manuals and additional guidance documents, as needed.
12. Erosion and sedimentation control measures shall be installed prior to start of work, shall be maintained, and shall remain in place during construction until all disturbed surfaces are stabilized. Following stabilization, erosion and sedimentation control measures shall be removed off-site and properly disposed.
13. Erosion and sedimentation controls shall be appropriate to the size and nature of the project and to the physical characteristics of the site, including slope, soil type, vegetative cover, and proximity to wetlands or surface waters. The type and installation method of erosion and sediment controls shall be in accordance with the Best Management Practices Manual for Utility Maintenance in and Adjacent to Wetlands and Waterbodies in New Hampshire (March 2019), published by the New Hampshire Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, and Eversource BMP documents as applicable.
14. Temporary stone construction entrances will be used at points of construction ingress/egress from public and private roadways to reduce/eliminate sediment track-out.

15. The selected contractor is responsible for street sweeping at points of ingress/egress from public and private roadways.
16. Selected contractor will be responsible for certifying that all equipment on the project is clean of invasive species prior to arriving onsite. The contractor will also be responsible for cleaning equipment as it is moved within the project to reduce the risk of spreading invasive plant seeds and fragments.
17. Timber swamp matting shown on the plans represents the square footage and alignment of matting which is required and has been approved by the regulators. Additional layers of mats may be required at certain locations. Any increase in the number, change in alignment, or decision not to use swamp mats must be approved by the Permittee or an authorized representative of the Permittee(s) and, as appropriate, regulators.
18. Any excavated material shall be placed outside of jurisdictional areas or removed from the site.
19. If dewatering is required, dewatering basins shall be placed in uplands areas and discharge water into upland areas.
20. Areas of soil disturbance shall be stabilized following construction in accordance with the BMP Manual.



			<b>EVERSOURCE</b> ENERGY	
			<b>2022 - Line A126 - Structure Replacement Project</b>	
			Exeter, NH	
			Date: April 26, 2022	
NO.	DATE	REVISIONS		

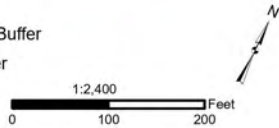




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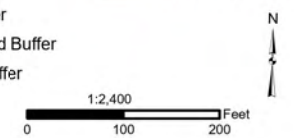
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Existing Structure</li> <li>○ Existing Structure to be Removed</li> <li>● Proposed Structure Replacement</li> <li>- Existing Access</li> <li>- Proposed Access</li> <li>- Existing Right-of-Way</li> <li>- Proposed work to be permitted in Brentwood</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▭ Workpad</li> <li>▨ Temporary Construction Matting</li> <li>▨ Upland Constriction Matting / Tracked Equipment</li> <li>- Sediment Control Barrier</li> <li>- Overhead Eversource Lines</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▨ Previously Delineated Wetland Resource Area</li> <li>▨ FEMA 100-Year Flood Zone</li> <li>▨ Temporary Wetland District Impact</li> <li>▨ Temporary Shoreland District Impact</li> <li>▨ Wetland Conservation District</li> <li>▨ Shoreland Conservation District</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▨ NHDES Prime Wetlands</li> <li>▨ Watercourse (Non-Delineated)</li> <li>▨ Delineated Stream</li> <li>▨ 40' Wetlands Buffer</li> <li>▨ 100' Prime Wetland Buffer</li> <li>▨ 150' Shoreland Buffer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▨ Town Boundary</li> <li>▨ Eversource Owned Property</li> <li>▨ Parcel Boundary</li> </ul> |
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<b>EVERSOURCE ENERGY</b>	
<b>2022 - Line A126 Structure Replacement Project</b>	
EXETER, NH	MAP SHEET 1 of 2
Date: April, 2022	
NO.	DATE
	REVISIONS



● Existing Structure	▭ Workpad	▨ Previously Delineated Wetland Resource Area	▨ NHDES Prime Wetlands	▭ Town Boundary
● Existing Structure to be Removed	▨ Temporary Construction Matting	▨ FEMA 100-Year Flood Zone	▨ Watercourse (Non-Delineated)	▭ Eversource Owned Property
● Proposed Structure Replacement	▨ Upland Constriction Matting / Tracked Equipment	▨ Temporary Wetland District Impact	▨ Delineated Stream	▭ Parcel Boundary
— Existing Access	▨ Sediment Control Barrier	▨ Temporary Shoreland District Impact	▨ 40' Wetlands Buffer	
— Proposed Access	— Overhead Eversource Lines	▨ Wetland Conservation District	▨ 100' Prime Wetland Buffer	
▭ Existing Right-of-Way		▨ Shoreland Conservation District	▨ 150' Shoreland Buffer	
▭ Proposed work to be permitted in Brentwood				



NO.		DATE		REVISIONS		<b>EVERSOURCE ENERGY</b>	
						<b>2022 - Line A126 Structure Replacement Project</b>	
		EXETER, NH		MAP SHEET 2 of 2			
		Date: April, 2022					

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**Representative Site Photos – Exeter Wetland CUP  
A126 Line - Structure Replacements, Exeter NH – April 27, 2022**



Photo 1. View northwest at existing Structure 202 proposed for replacement. Photo depicts the approximate location of temporary impacts within Wetland EW-1 and its associated 40' buffer resulting from timber matting and the structure work pad.



Photo 2. View northeast at Wetland EW-2 designated as NHDES Prime Wetland located just west of Route 101 eastbound.

**Representative Site Photos – Exeter Wetland CUP  
A126 Line - Structure Replacements, Exeter NH – April 27, 2022**



Photo 3. View northwest at existing Structure 201 proposed for replacement. Photo depicts the approximate location of temporary impacts within the 100' prime wetland buffer of Wetland EW-2 associated with the structure work pad.



Photo 4. View east at location of proposed timber mat access road through Wetland EW-2 (NHDES Prime Wetland) required in order to access and replace Structure 200 (depicted in photo background).

**Representative Site Photos – Exeter Wetland CUP  
A126 Line - Structure Replacements, Exeter NH – April 27, 2022**



Photo 5. View southeast at existing Structure 200 proposed for replacement. Photo depicts approximate location of temporary impact to Wetland EW-2 and its associated 100' prime wetland buffer resulting from timber matting and the structure work pad.



Photo 6. View west at location of proposed timber matting (temporary impact) across a narrow finger of Wetland EW-23 just southeast of existing Structure 166 proposed for replacement.

**Representative Site Photos – Exeter Wetland CUP  
A126 Line - Structure Replacements, Exeter NH – April 27, 2022**



Photo 7. View northeast at existing Structure 166 proposed for replacement. Photo depicts approx. location of temporary impacts within the 40' wetland buffer of Wetland EW-23 located immediately west of the structure.



Photo 8. View west at location of proposed timber mat access road through Wetland EW-23 required in order to access and replace Structure 167 (depicted in photo background - right).

# Town of Exeter



## **Planning Board Application for Conditional Use Permit: Shoreland Protection District**

*April 2022*



# Town of Exeter Planning Board Application

## Conditional Use Permit: Shoreland Protection District In accordance with Zoning Ordinance Article: 9.3

### SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

**(see Conservation Commission and Planning Board meeting dates and submission deadlines)**

1. One (1) electronic copy of full application, including plans (color copy if available)
2. Fifteen (15) copies of the Application
3. Fifteen (15) 11"x17" and three (3) full sized copies of the plan which must include:
  - Existing Conditions
    - a. Property Boundaries
    - b. Edge of Shoreland and associated Buffer (Shoreland Protection District – SPD)
    - c. Structures, roads/access ways, parking, drainage systems, utilities, wells and wastewater disposal systems and other site improvements
  - Proposed Conditions
    - a. Edge of Shoreland and Shoreland Buffers and distances to the following:
      - i. Edge of Disturbance
      - ii. Structures, roads/access ways, parking, drainage systems, utilities, wells and wastewater disposal systems and other site improvements
    - b. Name and phone number of all individuals whose professional seal appears on the plan
4. If applicant and/or agent is not the owner, a letter of authorization must accompany this application
5. Supporting documents i.e. Letters from the Department of Environmental Services, Standard Dredge and Fill Application and Photos of the property
6. A Town of Exeter Assessors list of names and mailing addresses of all abutters

**Required Fees:**

Planning Board Fee: **\$50.00**    Abutter Fee: **\$10.00**    Recording Fee (if applicable): **\$25.00**

**Planning Board Fee: \$50.00    Abutter Fee: N/A - Notified under Wetlands CUP Application    Recording Fee: N/A    TOTAL: \$50.00**

The Planning Office must receive the completed application, plans and fees on the day indicated on the Planning Board Schedule of Deadlines and Public Hearings.

<b>APPLICANT</b>	Name: Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
	Address: 13 Legends Drive, Hooksett NH 03106
	Email Address: jeremy.fennell@eversource.com
	Phone: 603-634-3396
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	Address: Existing Electric Transmission Line Right-of-Way
	Tax Map # <u>see attached</u> Lot# <u>see attached</u> Zoning District: <u>RU, R1</u>
	Owner of Record: Existing Electric Transmission Line Right-of-Way Easement
Person/Business performing work outlined in proposal	Name: Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
	Address: 13 Legends Drive, Hooksett NH 03106
	Phone: 603-634-3396
Professional that delineated wetlands	Name: Kristopher Wilkes, VHB (CWS #288)
	Address: 2 Bedford Farms Drive, Suite 200 - Bedford, NH 03110
	Phone: 603-391-3944



**Town of Exeter  
 Planning Board Application  
 Conditional Use Permit: Shoreland Protection District**

**Detailed Proposal including intent, project description, and use of property: (Use additional sheet as needed)**

Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) d/b/a Eversource Energy intends to conduct routine maintenance/repair activities along the existing A126 Transmission Line in Exeter. Proposed work includes the replacement of five (5) existing 115-kV transmission structures within the limits of the existing ROW corridor between Route 101 eastbound and the Exeter/Brentwood Town line (just east of Pine Road), and approximately 1,500 feet west of Captain's Way, located to the west of Newfields Road/Route 85. The proposed work is part of PSNH's on-going maintenance program conducted to ensure reliable electric service for their customers. The PSNH 115-kV transmission system is an integral part of the regional power system delivering electricity to customers throughout New England. It is critical that the 115-kV system remain operational without interruption from preventable outages. This Conditional Use Permit Application is being submitted in accordance with *Article 9* of the Town's Zoning Ordinance and is required for the proposed maintenance work to allow for temporary impacts within the 150 foot buffer of an unnamed perennial stream located within the Squamscott River watershed protected under the Shoreland Protection District (*Article 9.3.3*). Refer to the attached cover letter for additional details.

**Shoreland Protection District Impact (in square footage):**

Water Body	Perennial stream within Squamscott River watershed
<b>Temporary Impact</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 300 Foot SPD _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 150 foot SPD <u>7,299 SF</u> <input type="checkbox"/> SPD Building Setback _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 75 Vegetative Buffer _____
<b>Permanent Impact</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 300 Foot SPD _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 150 foot SPD _____ <input type="checkbox"/> SPD Building Setback _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 75 Vegetative Buffer _____
<b>Impervious Lot Coverage</b>	SF of Lot within District _____ SF of Impervious within District _____ % of Impervious within District _____

List any variances/special exceptions granted by Zoning Board of Adjustment including dates:

N/A

Describe how your proposal meets the conditions of Article 9.3.4.G.2 of the Zoning Ordinance (attached for reference):

Refer to the attached cover letter.

Refer to the attached abutters list included with the Wetlands CUP Application

**ABUTTERS: PLEASE LIST ALL PERSONS WHOSE PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND ADJOINS OR IS DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET OR STREAM FROM THE LAND UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD. THIS LIST SHALL BE COMPILED FROM THE EXETER TAX ASSESSOR'S RECORDS.**

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**Please attach additional sheets if needed**

**Conditional Use Permit Criteria**  
**Shoreland Protection District**

9.3.4 G Conditional Uses: Refer to the attached cover letter.

2. The Planning Board may grant a Conditional Use Permit for those uses listed above only after written findings of fact are made which have been reviewed by technical experts from the Rockingham Conservation District, if required by the Planning Board, at the cost of the developer, provided that all of the following are true:

- a. The proposed use will not detrimentally affect the surface water quality of the adjacent river or tributary, or otherwise result in unhealthful conditions.
- b. The proposed use will discharge no waste water on site other than that normally discharged by domestic waste water disposal systems and will not involve on-site storage or disposal of hazardous or toxic wastes as herein defined.
- c. The proposed use will not result in undue damage to spawning grounds and other wildlife habitat.
- d. The proposed use complies with the use regulations identified in Article 9.3.4 Exeter Shoreland Protection District Ordinance – Use Regulations and all other applicable sections of this article.
- e. The design and construction of the proposed use will be consistent with the intent of the purposes set forth in Article 9.3.1 Exeter Shoreland Protection District Ordinance – Authority and Purpose.



**Representative Site Photos – Exeter Shoreland CUP  
H141 Lines – Structure Replacements, Exeter NH – April 27, 2022**



Photo 1. View northeast at existing Structure 166 proposed for replacement. Photo depicts the approximate location of temporary impacts associated with the structure work pad within the 150 foot shoreland buffer of an unnamed perennial stream that intersects the Project ROW just west of the structure.



Photo 2. View northeast at Wetland EW-23. The unnamed perennial stream is not well defined as it flows through this wetland and across the Project ROW. Structure 166 proposed for replacement is depicted in the photo background.

**Representative Site Photos – Exeter Shoreland CUP  
H141 Lines – Structure Replacements, Exeter NH – April 27, 2022**



Photo 3. View north at the unnamed perennial stream as it flows outside the existing limits of the Project ROW.

## Eversource A126 Line Structure Replacements

### Abutters List: Exeter, NH

Abutter #	Parcel #	Property Address	Owner Name	Co-Owner Name	Owner Mailing Address 1	Owner City	Owner State	Owner Zip
1	020-007-0000	The Oaklands	Town of Exeter		10 Front Street	Exeter	NH	03833
	025-001-0000	Newfields Rd	Town of Exeter		10 Front Street	Exeter	NH	03833
	020-008-0000	The Oaklands	Town of Exeter		10 Front Street	Exeter	NH	03833
	020-003-0000	Oaklands Rd	Town of Exeter		10 Front Street	Exeter	NH	03833
	020-002-0000	The Oaklands	Town of Exeter		10 Front Street	Exeter	NH	03833
	020-001-0000	Off Newfields Rd	Town of Exeter		10 Front Street	Exeter	NH	03833
	030-004-0000	Epping Rd	Town of Exeter		10 Front Street	Exeter	NH	03833
2	024-001-0000	54 Newfields Rd	Limberg Randall Keith II		54 Newfields Rd	Exeter	NH	03833
3	024-003-0000	Newfields Rd	Captains Meadow Homeowners		PO Box 544	Exeter	NH	03833
4	021-002-0000	22 Captains Way	Michael A Mills		22 Captains Way	Exeter	NH	03833
5	024-015-0000	24 Captains Way	Ashley Mitchell		24 Captains Way	Exeter	NH	03833
6	021-032-0000	21 Captains Way	Richard J Bertani		21 Captains Way	Exeter	NH	03833
7	021-031-0000	19 Captains Way	Elizabeth C Andrada Revocable Trust		19 Captains Way	Exeter	NH	03833
8	021-030-0000	17 Captains Way	Francis and Richard Nolan		17 Captains Way	Exeter	NH	03833
9	030-010-0000	Epping Rd	State of New Hampshire		PO Box 483	Concord	NH	03302
10	030-002-0001	Epping Rd	Carl E Bouchard		PO Box 219	Exeter	NH	03833
11	030-009-0000	Epping Rd	Properties Inc		PO Box 270	Hartford	CT	06141-0270
12	030-008-000	Epping Rd	Silver Granada Realty LLC		131 Pine Rd	Brentwood	NH	03833
	029-010-0001	Pine Rd	Silver Granada Realty LLC		131 Pine Rd	Brentwood	NH	03833

Notes:

Color indicates parcels where utility maintenance work or associated access is proposed. Parcels depicted in red on attached tax maps represent abutting parcels.

Town of Exeter  
10 Front Street  
Exeter, NH 03833

Randall Keith Limberg II  
54 Newfields Rd  
Exeter, NH 03833

Captains Meadow Homeowners  
PO Box 544  
Exeter, NH 03833

Michael A Mills  
22 Captains Way  
Exeter, NH 03833

Ashley Mitchell  
24 Captains Way  
Exeter, NH 03833

Richard J Bertani  
21 Captains Way  
Exeter, NH 03833

Elizabeth C Andrada Revocable Trust  
19 Captains Way  
Exeter, NH 03833

Francis and Richard Nolan  
17 Captains Way  
Exeter, NH 03833

State of New Hampshire  
PO Box 483  
Concord, NH 03302

Carl E Bouchard  
PO Box 219  
Exeter, NH 03833

Properties Inc  
PO Box 270  
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

Silver Granada Realty LLC  
131 Pine Rd  
Brentwood, NH 03833



Exeter Conservation Commission  
April 12, 2022  
Nowack Room  
Draft Minutes

**Call to Order**

1. Introduction of Members Present (by Roll Call)

Present at tonight's meeting were by roll call, Chair Andrew Koff, Vice-Chair Trevor Mattera, David Short, Select Board representative Nancy Belanger and Alyson Eberhardt (remotely).

Staff Present:

Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Public Comment (7:00 PM)

Mr. Koff noted there were no members of the public present.

**Action Items**

1. Expenditure Request – NH Association of Conservation Commission Dues

***Mr. Koff motioned to approve the expenditure of \$900 for the NH Association of Conservation Commission dues to come from the Conservation Commission budget. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Ms. Eberhardt voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Mattera voted aye and Mr. Short voted aye. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

2. Committee Reports

a. Property Management

i. McDonnell Gate Now Operational with Volunteer Support

Mr. Koff thanked the volunteers who assist with opening and closing the McDonnell Gate every day.

ii. Gateway – Deed Update

Mr. Koff noted that he has just signed the deed for this property which is 43.6 acres. Next the deed will go to DES and the Select Board for their signatures. Ms. Belanger indicated that the matter went before the Select Board last night and was approved. Ms. Murphy attended to show support.

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iii. Riverwoods Forest Stewardship Plan Presentation

Mr. Koff noted that the Riverwoods Forest Land Stewardship Committee meets on Thursday at 7:30 PM. There will be a forester. Ms. Murphy and Mr. Mattera will attend.

iv. Cooperative Middle School Water Quality Project

Mr. Koff reported that Ms. Murphy will be presenting at the Cooperative Middle School along with Eric Turner from ERSLAC.

b. Trails

i. Jolly Rand Trail Maintenance

Mr. Short noted that if it looks doable, he will go by and then talk to Jay next week or so.

ii. Morrisette Property

Mr. Short noted this area is not well drained and there are parking problems. If the terrain is upgraded patrons may be encouraged to use parking available parking at the industrial park in Exeter and alleviate congestion in the parking lots on Watson and Route 85. Mr. Short posted on the biking webpage and the response was huge. Several thousand dollars worth of used decking were pledged by a contractor who was renovating a number of decks in Kingston. Reusing the product will also keep it out of the landfill and keep the donor from having to pay to dispose of it.

Mr. Short noted that a lot of the work will be getting the material in to the site and he will set a trail day with 15-20 volunteers in May.

Mr. Koff stated that he will organize a Trail Committee meeting soon.

c. Outreach Events

i. Geocaching Event (Kyle)

Mr. Koff reported that Kyle will be planning a Geocaching event.

ii. Alewife Festival

Mr. Koff announced that Parks & Recreation are hosting a chance to win a Kayak for selecting the date of the Alewife Run the day before getting to Pickpocket Dam when they will come through downtown. If more than one correct date is predicted the names would be pooled into a raffle. The cost is \$10.

89 Mr. Koff reported that there will be a Mascot Costume Contest with judging to take place the  
90 day of the festival. Ms. Eberhardt noted the date of the costume flyer needs correcting. The  
91 Alewife Festival is on the 14<sup>th</sup> the rain date is the 21<sup>st</sup>. T-shirts will be available, and Mrs. Koff  
92 did a great job on the logo.

93  
94 Mr. Koff noted that NH Fish & Game will be at the festival. The Sustainability Committee will  
95 have an electric vehicle display. The Tree Committee is having its scavenger hunt contest.  
96 Pollinator Pathways will have a booth and Philips Exeter Academy will have a booth showing  
97 residents how to reduce their junk mail (a link is available to that presentation). There will be a  
98 film festival and a kayak tour beginning at the Town boat launch. Sawbellies will be offering free  
99 beer to purchasers of their pint glass. There will be no beer at the festival they would bring their  
100 glass to Sawbellies after to redeem their free beer.

101  
102 Mr. Koff reported that he and Mr. Mattera will be overseeing the Enviroscape landscape  
103 simulation model which simulates how rainfall can carry pollutants and move them through the  
104 watershed and the model of the cross section of groundwater which shows how sand and silt  
105 have water drain off media and how groundwater and surface water contamination flows into  
106 wells. Mr. Koff added that they could use more help that day as there will also be trail maps and  
107 Sea Level Rise presentation at Swasey Parkway to show how local areas are impacted.

108  
109 5. Approval of Minutes: March 8, 2022 Meeting - Tabled

110  
111 **Mr. Short motioned to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting. Mr. Koff seconded the**  
112 **motion. A roll call vote was taken, Ms. Eberhardt abstained. Motion failed.**

113  
114 6. Correspondence

115  
116 Mr. Koff reported two letters of support are going out from the Commission. The first is for the DPW  
117 project on Drinkwater Road for a grant with DES Coastal Program to enlarge the failing culvert and the  
118 second is for DPW with the same grant program for a culvert replacement under the Watershed  
119 Assistance section for Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure. Ms. Eberhardt added that as a private citizen  
120 she has voiced encouragement for PEA to consider the two perched culverts downstream especially  
121 with the Alewife migration expanding after removal of the dam. She noted that the Alewife lack the  
122 ability jump up and the culvert is just beneath a trail and a good opportunity. Mr. Koff added that Pete  
123 Steckler from the Nature Conservancy may be interested in this. The second project will be drainage  
124 study at Tan Lane to address significant issues in the stormwater collection system improving water  
125 quality and reducing nitrogen loading flowing into the Squamscott River.

126  
127 Mr. Koff concluded that the projects will support improved crossing, water quality and habitat.

128  
129 7. Other Business

130  
131 Mr. Koff noted Town-wide clean-up day started yesterday. Residents can go to the DPW and get free  
132 bags to pick up trash along the roadsides and drop them back for free disposal at the DPW. The

133 compost site took in 16,500 tons of food waste which were diverted from the landfill and there is a  
134 clothing textile bin to donate unwanted clothing that isn't suitable for second hand donation. They took  
135 in 1000 pounds in February alone.

136  
137 Mr. Koff reported that Ms. Murphy will be working with Dover where she lives on a Climate Change  
138 program modeled after one that was done here in Exeter.

139  
140 Mr. Koff announced the rain barrels will be for sale.

141  
142 Mr. Koff reported the RFP for Raynes Farm has gone out and is due on May 2nd. The \$150,000 from the  
143 Town was approved by the voters. There will be a site visit on Friday April 15th at 10 AM. Mr. Koff, Ms.  
144 Murphy and previous Commission member Sally Ward who is on the Raynes Farm Stewardship  
145 Committee will attend. Mr. Short noted he would be interested in being involved in review of the  
146 construction details of the RFP. DPW will be involved and a former Commission member. Mr. Short  
147 provided the name of a contractor who specializes and did some work on Newfields Road. The owners  
148 of the barn were very pleased with the results.

149  
150 8. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (5/10/22), Submission Deadline (4/29/22)

151  
152 Adjournment

153  
154 MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM seconded by Mr. Mattera. A vote was  
155 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

156  
157 Respectfully submitted,

158  
159 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary  
160 Via Exeter TV

161  
162 This meeting was also presented virtually Zoom ID 897 5937 7042