

MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
HYBRID PARTICIPATION
November 6th, 2023

ATTENDANCE

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Christopher Pratt, Chairman | Present |
| Norman Cheever, Vice Chairman | Present |
| Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner | Absent |
| Jerry Patria, Commissioner | Present |
| Kevin Solek, Commissioner | Present |
| Andrew Reardon, Commissioner | Present |
| Dennis Clark, Commissioner | Present |

Chairman Pratt opened the meeting at 7:00 PM by announcing the date, time and members in attendance.

MINUTES

Vice Chairman Cheever made a motion to accept the minutes of 10/16/23. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Chris Pratt | yes | Norm Cheever | yes |
| Jerry Patria | yes | Andy Reardon | yes |
| Dennis Clark | yes | Kevin Solek | yes |

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

81 Point Grove Road NOI DEP # 292-0415 A request was emailed for a continuation until the November 20th meeting. Vice Chairman Cheever made a motion for a continuation. Commissioner Patria seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Chris Pratt | yes | Norm Cheever | yes |
| Jerry Patria | yes | Andy Reardon | yes |
| Dennis Clark | yes | Kevin Solek | yes |

662A College Highway NOI 292-0412 A request was emailed for a continuation until the November 20th meeting. Vice Chairman Cheever made a motion for a continuation. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-----------|
| Chris Pratt | yes | Norm Cheever | yes |
| Jerry Patria | yes | Andy Reardon | abstained |
| Dennis Clark | yes | Kevin Solek | yes |

Mr. Jeff Smith, Wetland Scientist

Mr. Val Shvets, Owner

Parcel A 72 Mort Vining Road DEP # 292-0416 Chairman Pratt opened the Public Hearing by reading the legal ad as posted in the Reminder Publication on 10/3/23. The project was initially submitted as a Request for Determination (RDA) and was found positive as the scope of the work required a Notice of Intent. Mr. Shvets stated that a lot of clean fill will need to be brought to the site to make the property more level. The single family dwelling will have down spouts that drain to the rear so only clean water will enter the wetlands and not cause erosion. Boulders will be installed at the 50 foot mark and double silt fencing including waddles will be installed at the 50 and 100 foot lines of the buffer zones. There will be “seasonal” mowing (once or twice a year) in the former hay field portion of the lot. The mapping used for the presentation was the same as the one presented for the RDA.

As there were no other comments, Commissioner Patria made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Solek seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Chris Pratt | yes | Norm Cheever | yes |
| Jerry Patria | yes | Andy Reardon | yes |
| Dennis Clark | yes | Kevin Solek | yes |

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the plan once a revised updated copy of the plan is submitted, the standard Order of Conditions include an enhancement in the 25 foot section, boulders be installed at the 50 foot marker, and a \$10,000.00 bond. Vice Chairman Cheever seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Chris Pratt | yes | Norm Cheever | yes |
| Jerry Patria | yes | Andy Reardon | yes |
| Dennis Clark | yes | Kevin Solek | yes |

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Donna Rolfe

16 Berkshire Avenue Ms. Rolfe was requested to attend the meeting due to a possible wetland violation. A tree from a neighboring property had fallen on 16 Berkshire Avenue damaging the retaining wall. Ms. Rolfe wanted the repair to be done quickly as to prevent water from coming into the cellar and was not aware that a permit was needed. The Conservation Commission explained that any work done within 100 feet of the lake required permits and the contractor doing the work should have been aware of the requirement. Ms. Rolf will send the name of the contractor to Coordinator Pooler and a letter will be issued to them relating to the need for permits as the homeowner could be responsible for penalties and fines.

Ms. Nicki Ayotte, Owner

Mr. Chris Merool, Friend

142 Berkshire Avenue Ms. Ayotte was requested to attend the meeting as a result of a fence installed within 100 feet of the lake which is under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission and requires permitting. Ms. Ayotte explained that trees were removed causing erosion. A fence was installed to help prevent the erosion. Coordinator Pooler will assist Ms. Ayotte in filing an after the fact Request for Determination on the work that was done and will be done at the location.

Ms. Erica Rossini, Owner

21 Noble Steed Ms. Rossini attended the meeting at the request of the Conservation Commission concerning a possible wetland violation. Ms. Rossini explained that trees were removed from the 100 foot buffer zone for safety reasons. The trees were rotted and had a potential to damage the dwelling. Ms. Rossini did remark to the contractor that that the area had some wetlands but she was unaware of the Conservation Commission jurisdiction. Ms. Rossini stated she will plant trees along the south west corner of the property. The Conservation Commission will require advanced notice and possible filing for any future work to be done at the property.

28 Noble Steed Buffer Zone mitigation will be tabled until the next scheduled meeting.

Domenica and Nicole Nooney

Girl Scout Troop 12916 Mrs. and Ms. Nooney attended the Conservation Commission meeting to present a potential recycling project on North Pond. The presentation included sustainability, accommodations, advertisements, cost and maintenance. In depth research was done creating several options on how the project could begin and how funding could be achieved to retain recycle receptacles and removal processes. Options included metal and wood bins, with the Conservation Commission members agreeing that wooden bins would be a better option. The Conservation Commission will need to review the Conservation restriction and determine where the recycled bins can be installed and stated an appreciation of the effort of Mrs. and Ms. Nooney.

Mr. Don Merlingo, Solitude

Mr. Jeff Costaline, Solitude

Mr. Richard Grannells, Chairman LMC

DEP #292-0295 Canal Brook Beaver Dam Removal Mr. Grannells explained that a beaver dam will need to be removed before the winter freeze. The process will be done by a rake paddle that will remove the sticks and organics the beavers used to build the dam and bring the material to shore. The material will not need to be removed as it will degrade naturally. The hut will remain, but the dam needs to be removed as it is raising the water level of the lake. The Notice of Intent - DEP # 292-0295 - requires notification to the Conservation Commission prior to the work being done.

Partial Release Certificate of Compliance lot 23 DEP# 292-0369 There currently is not a dwelling on the lot. There is a small portion of the lot in the western area that is stabilized. Commissioner Reardon made a motion that the owner/builder will need to return to the Conservation Commission with an as built plan before a partial Certificate of Compliance can be granted. Commissioner Patria seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chris Pratt yes

Norm Cheever yes

Jerry Patria yes

Andy Reardon yes

Dennis Clark yes

Kevin Solek yes

Master Plan Advisory Committee Vice Chairman made note that former Chairman David MacWilliams was the member representing the Conservation Commission. The work has since been

completed and had been presented to the Planning Board. All action items are scheduled to be completed within the next 20 years.

Suffield LPP Vice Chairman Cheever will do a presentation at the next scheduled meeting.

410 Mountain Road, Suffield CT Coordinator Pooler presented an application for Variance 6.2 Annual Removal of Docks. The application has come in yearly with a statement from the owner that lights and cones will be installed at the end of the docks and will be replaced with removable docks at some point in the future. Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the variance. Vice Chairman Cheever seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Chris Pratt | yes | Norm Cheever | yes |
| Jerry Patria | yes | Andy Reardon | yes |
| Dennis Clark | yes | Kevin Solek | yes |

109 Bungalow Street and 60 Lakemont Street Coordinator Pooler issued an Emergency Certification for the removal of trees at both locations. Mr. Randy Brown, Tree Warden, agreed that the trees fall under the criteria for removal. Commissioner Clark made a motion for the approval of the Emergency Certification. Vice Chairman Cheever seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Chris Pratt | yes | Norm Cheever | yes |
| Jerry Patria | yes | Andy Reardon | yes |
| Dennis Clark | yes | Kevin Solek | yes |

Invasive Coordinator Pooler made note that the Spotted Lanternfly , which is an invasive species has recently been found in Agawam, West Springfield and Springfield. It is suggested that anyone observing the species take a picture, note the location, kill the insect, and report it on the website. Hydrilla is an aquatic invasive plant that has recently been discovered in Lake Congamond. It may have been transported by tournament bass boats from other known locations. The public is encouraged to remove all vegetation from their vessels before and after launching into a body of water.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Ken Eggleston, Owner
Attorney Matthew Donohue

141 Congamond Road DEP# 292-0400 Attorney Donohue explained a process for injecting seed into the Filtrex sleeves that will create plantings and stabilize the shore for next spring which will satisfy #4 in the Order of Conditions. Attorney Donohue then stated that he had contacted the Harbor Master concerning the dock requirement in #7 of the Order of Conditions. Chief Landis had no issue with the docks remaining in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 91 with the inclusion of safety measures such as motion sensor lights that will need to be taken to prevent accidents. The amount of docks exceeding the 1,999 square feet as allowed by Chapter 91 will need to be removed in the winter. Vice Chairman Cheever made note that the Lake Management Committee (LMC) did vote at their last meeting recommend that the Conservation Commission require all docks be removed. Mr. Grannells, Chairman

LMC, inquired as to if the weight of the anchors is sufficient to retain the docks in place. Mr. Eggleston stated that the anchors are metal weighing 250 pounds each. Commissioner Clark made a motion to dissolve #7 of the Order of Conditions as the Conservation Commission's concern is focused on wetlands and habitation of species and allowing the docks to remain in the water would have less impact on the resource which is a significant difference. Commissioner Solek seconded the motion. Written notification of the decision will be issued to Mr. Eggleston. The roll call vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Chris Pratt | yes | Norm Cheever | no |
| Jerry Patria | yes | Andy Reardon | yes |
| Dennis Clark | yes | Kevin Solek | yes |

579 Forest Road Suffield As of this meeting there has been no updates.

141 North Lake Avenue Coordinator Pooler reported that the dock had been removed.

DEP# 292-0380 157 Feeding Hills Road The owner made a request to continue the discussion until the next meeting.

31 Sam West Road There was no update as of this meeting.

Sofinowski Star Gazers Event Coordinator Pooler reported that it had been canceled due to weather conditions.

13 Berkshire Avenue Donation There has been no further information as of this meeting.

Holiday Party All employees, Board/Committee members, volunteers and Elected Officials are invited to Town Hall on December 15 at Town Hall. Food and beverages will be provided.

Mr. Jessie Saltmarsh, Owner
Noble Steed Crossing The Conservation Committee requested that Mr. Saltmarsh attend a meeting to discuss the conditions of the subdivision. Mr. Saltmarsh stated that the fill on site was sifted again and materials were removed. An extension of a roadway was paved and berms will be installed within the next week to allow water to be directed to catch basins. Trees will be removed and graded to eliminate erosion once seed has been established and silt fencing and waddles will be repaired/installed. The Conservation Commission was pleased with the progress and requested a restoration plan as to how the project will look once everything is completed.

Winter Forest Tree Sponsorship Coordinator Pooler stated that the Civic Fund was contributing to the event on December 9th which includes the decoration of trees in front of Town Hall. Boards and Committees are asked to help with the decorations.

Commissioner Clark made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 PM. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chris Pratt yes
Jerry Patria yes
Dennis Clark yes

Norm Cheever no
Andy Reardon yes
Kevin Solek yes

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nilsson, Secretary

cc:
Select Board
Town Clerk

Christopher Pratt, Chairman

Norman Cheever, Vice Chairman

Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner

Jerry Patria, Commissioner

Kevin Solek, Commissioner

Andy Reardon, Commissioner

Dennis Clark, Commissioner

Date