

**MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LAND USE MEETING ROOM
June 18, 2018**

OPENING: The regular scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission opened at 7:00 p.m. Attendance is as follows:

Christopher Pratt, Chairman	Present
Seth Kellogg, Vice Chairman	Absent
Mehmet Mizanoglu Commissioner	Present
Dave MacWilliams Commissioner	Present
Brian Drenen Commissioner	Present
Brian Pranka Commissioner	Present
Dennis Clark, Coordinator	Present

7:00 Christopher Pratt, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Commissioner MacWilliams made a motion to accept the minutes of 05/07/18, 05/21/18 and 06/04/18 (both meetings had a lack of quorum). Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Gerald Patria Mr. Patria, Chairman of the Sewer Implementation Committee, attended the meeting as a possible candidate for replacing Commissioner Frank Soleimani. Mr. Patria stated that the SIC has not been an active Committee for some period of time and was interested in serving the community in another capacity. Mr. Patria currently resides on South Pond of the Congamond Lakes. Commissioner Pranka stated that he, as another member of the SIC, has worked closely with Mr. Patria and has great dedication and leadership qualities. The Select Board appoints Conservation Commission members. Mr. Patria has already submitted a letter of interest to the Select Board.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7:10 **RDA 24 Veteran Street** Chairman Pratt read the legal ad as posted in the Westfield News on June 11, 2018. There was no one in attendance representative of the Request for Determination. Chairman Pratt made a motion for a continuation of the Public Hearing until the next scheduled meeting on July 2, 2018. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

7:15 **RDA 45 Miller Road (end of Second Street)** Chairman Pratt opened the Public Hearing by reading the legal ad as posted in the Westfield News on June 11, 2018. Mr. Davin Thomas, 45 Miller Road, explained the history of the property as it is associated with the Congamond South Pond Association. Members of the association live in the neighborhood and have been using and maintaining the property for a number of years. The Association has a life time use of the property until such time as they disband then actual ownership will revert to the Town. The beach front is noted on the Southwick GIS mapping system as a portion of the roadway with no book and page numbers. Mr. Thomas has been working with members of the DPW to improve conditions at along the beach

area including bringing in sand and general landscaping of non-evasive plants. The largest issue is erosion due to rain water from the run-off of neighboring properties. A solution would be to install a plunge pool at the location of the run-off, however, there are no grant monies available at this time to install a plunge pool.

Mr. Tim Foster, 38 Miller Road, stated that the Congamond South Pond Association has done an incredible job with the property and that he would be willing to help with a plunge pool installation.

Mrs. Liz Patria, 2 Shore Road, stated that though the Congamond South Pond Association is doing a good job maintaining the property, they fall a little short of communication. Mrs. Patria is a direct shore line abutter and was concerned with heavy machinery on the beach which may have an impact on their property shore line. Mrs. Patria wanted to be assured that the rights of all shore line property owners are respected.

Mrs. Beth Thomas, 45 Miller Road, stated that the Congamond South Pond Association was taking care of a property that could otherwise be neglected. The plantings are to attempt at stabilization of the land and hopefully to deter further erosion.

The Conservation Commission members were concerned with sand being brought to the beach as it may wash into the lake and would like to see a more definitive plan for installing a plunge pool and specifics on landscaping. Mr. Thomas requested a continuation of the public hearing in order to obtain more information.

Commissioner MacWilliams made a motion to continue the public hearing until July 2, 2018. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/REVIEW

Open Space Committee As of this meeting, the dates and time the Committee will meet still has not be established. Once the members are appointed, they will decide on the dates and times. Commissioner MacWilliams made a motion to nominate Mr. Clark as a representative of the Conservation Committee. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

North Pond Land Grant The Conservation Commissioners signed the Local Acquisition for natural Diversity (LAND) Program Project Agreement. The document will be sent to the Select Board office.

Certificate of Compliance DEP# 292-0174 Coordinator Clark stated that the contractor for the original project removed the original wetland flags. New monuments have been installed along the 50 foot buffer border. Chairman Pratt made a motion to sign the Certificate of Compliance. Commissioner MacWilliams seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Certificate of Compliance DEP# 292-0297 Coordinator Clark stated that he conducted an inspection at the location and the project was in compliance. Chairman Pratt made a motion to sign the Certificate of Compliance for 27 Eagle Street. Commissioner Pranka seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Personal Watercraft By-law Coordinator Clark stated that Selectboard made it public that the new by-law will not be enforced this season. There have already been incidents concerning jet skis on North Pond.

Sterrett Farm Nature Walk A letter was issued from Bacon/Wilson, Town Attorneys, concerning trimming the trees on the nature walk. However, the Town can only trim the trees to their property line. The Conservation Commission members agreed to have a new survey and verify the monuments

done to determine the exact location of the neighbor's property and the Town right-of-way property lines. Once that is done, the scope of work to determine how the tree cutting can be corrected will be determined and contracted.

Community Garden Coordinator Clark stated that most of the plots have been reserved. There are sections to the rear of the garden reserved for the Boy Scouts. Commissioner MacWilliams stated that he does not know if the Boy Scouts are going to use the Community Garden again this year. The Conservation Commission members agreed that the remaining space could be used by participants to keep the weeds from encroaching on other plots.

Local Permitting Program (LPP) Update Coordinator Clark related information from a meeting with officials from Suffield. The Town of Suffield will pay for 2019 CT residents having docks, registered vessels, etc. Data has been collected of the previous years LPP program and will be forwarded to the Town of Suffield.

84 Point Grove Road – potential dock violation Coordinator Clark stated that the potential violation refers to the current configuration on that existing dock which does not match the submittal to DEP license # 1299 issued in 03/04/11. The property only has 9 feet of lake frontage. The initial submittal was for a 36 foot dock. The current dock is approximately 56 feet. A letter will be issued to the property owner.

12 Island Pond Road – potential dock violation A letter was issued to the property owner stating that the dock position was “at or over” the neighboring property line. The deadline for corrective action was 5/21/18. As of this meeting, there has been no response from the property owner.

Enforcement Order DEP #292-0297 – Baltazar Contractors Coordinator Clark received a request to have the silt fence removed. As of the date of the request, the Enforcement Order has not come into compliance. The request to remove the silt fence was denied.

Congamond Road Reconstruction Coordinator Clark stated that the wetlands associated with the roadway reconstruction had been delineated and silt fencing was installed.

107 South Loomis Street Coordinator Clark stated that this project should have been completed. He will contact Wetland Specialist Kate Bednaz for a final inspection.

North Pond Coordinator Clark stated that he has been getting calls about the tree clearing on the North Pond property. Fish and Wildlife is clearing some of the trees for grass growth to encourage a grasshopper population as a food source for the Grasshopper Sparrow.

152 Berkshire Avenue – Informal discussion Chairman Pratt excused himself as the Conservation Commission Chairman to discuss a proposal at his residence. Mr. Pratt is planning on installing 30 stairs to the lake that will be on a diverted path so as not to disrupt roots of existing trees. There will also be approximately 320 square feet of excavation out of the flood plane to be used for a retaining wall. Landscaping will be done with non evasive plants and silt fencing / hay bales will be used to prevent material from entering the lake. The heavy equipment will access the property through a neighboring property. The Conservation Commissioners agreed that a Notice of Intent will need to be filed due to the scope of the intended work.

Commissioner MacWilliams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Commissioner Drenen seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nilsson, Secretary

cc:

Select Board

Town Clerk

Christopher Pratt, Chairman

Seth Kellogg, Vice Chairman

Dave Mac Williams, Commissioner

Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner

Brian Drenen, Commissioner

Brian Pranka, Commissioner

Date