

January 26th 2021

Town of Wilton, CT
Inland Wetlands Commission
Town Hall
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT. 06897

Re: 67 Borglum Road (Map 123 Lot 22)– Cease & Desist

Dear Commission:

Michael Conklin, Director of Environment Affairs

Attachments to mike.conklin@wiltonct.org; Elizabeth.larkin@wiltonct.org

Please note I did not intentionally intend to violate any statutes or codes.

As a responsible homeowner, I thought I was performing all proper due diligence for my safety to inhabit as well as the safety and private property of my neighbors.

There were quite a few tasks I was performing to ensure this could happen in late spring early summer 2021.

- Soil Scientist – William Kenny – call into their office if items need to be rectified
- Surveyor – Roland Gardner – call placed and survey updated
- Septic – Laurel Hill Septic – plan is already going back in for review
- David's Tree Service & Landscaping LLC – landscape plan attached.

Currently there is no heat, water or waste disposable and was taking one task at a time but also overlapping.

Town water is turned off, the oil tank was emptied/abandoned. Existing cesspool/septic is not functioning. Well in rear is not yet abandoned which Septic contractor will take care of.

Also it should be known I am not today expanding the footprint of the existing structure. The original request by prior purchaser notes that in October. I did not purchase until November 6th

Simultaneously as the property was overgrown and dangerous, I hired a contractor and a Licensed Tree company to clear items for safety concerns. Many trees in the back like on the side property were split in half and or down from another tree hitting them or dead. Those that were precarious or leaning I took those down. As I am not living on the side property that can come later with the exception of right by the smaller structure as I also have the paperwork for a generator, that structure will be fixed to code for that.

In speaking/learning from Zen Herter, my contractor who is licensed, is not an arbortor/arborist, which I did not know was required. It was not evident to me to contact Inland Wetlands for the interior of my property. From this link and the survey I thought I was understanding what was needed for a single family permits, https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4046/f/uploads/zoning_regs_revised_jun_25_2019_updated_app_b_0.pdf.

I was contacting Inland for a review on the garage side and the street side over my wall, because I wanted to make sure I was not touching neighboring private property or town property.

To get the property to a semi-viable state for me to navigate as I am deemed handicap by the state of NY where I am a resident, I cannot safely walk with leaves, acorns, pinecones, pine needles, sap and vines. Depending on the day I can have a cane, a roller walker or wheelchair. Note my license plate and NYC handicap parking placard for work.

If I had questions I was contacting the building department, or the surveyor, both who are very helpful.

The trees I took down were to prep for mobility around my property. I have the paperwork to go into DOT for potential street egress. Those in the back and some on both sides were either already down to be cleaned up or taken down to prepare for a handicap ramp and that my architect and I decide a permanent solution. I did not take pictures of trees that were leaning on other trees or already down as those to me were obvious to come down. I hired David's Trees for this cleaned up before bad weather and during the last two wind storms before they even entered property more trees broke. I went over this with surveyor.

I have the paperwork ready to go to the building department for the handicap ramp as an add-on accessory. For now, it is anticipated as a temporary solution on 3 sides of the house to help navigate safely. Also I need space on both side of the house to be able to take a small motorized cart fully around the property and on the handicap ramp for those days I cannot walk or where the weather requires.

There is a structure that will house the generator, that permit is also going to be filed and that area was also cleared of dead trees or other shrubbery.

I have attached pictures of what things looked like recently and my landscape contract has already drawn a place and order trees. Many planted where they were not before but certainly replace those removed.

The trees on the garage side were not yet take down. They are flagged because of boundary. The trees right up against the garage, those I will put in for review and a permit in to replace those with Evergreen and Cypress for both privacy and easy to maintain.

I would also like to make as part of my review on the very far right side of property when I can start to clean that up what needs to be done there. As I am the new owner neighbor have expressed displeasure in the look. Although it is clear it has been this way for at least 5 to 7 years I will take pride and at least put up privacy trees to help the view.

Thank You in advance for your consideration that my actions were not to be construed harmful or malicious to the environment or the neighborhood. I respectfully ask that the remediation be considered as to provide a quality of life that is needed and necessary to be a safe and secure homeowner.

Patti Griffin