

Larkin, Elizabeth

From: ken tai <kentai3838@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:57 PM
To: Conklin, Mike
Cc: Herter, Zen; Larkin, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: Cease & Correct Order - 197 Catalpa Road, Wilton Connecticut

Hi Mike,

I am trying to do my part to remediate the situation as soon as possible. Right now, only removing debris is happening.

Unfortunately, the worker I talked to on the day you visited was not the boss. The boss wanted additional money which I agreed to, but, still, he is a no show yesterday without explanation.

Let me know the previous email and attachments can serve as supporting documents.

Thanks.

Ken

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 12:16 PM Conklin, Mike <Mike.Conklin@wiltonct.org> wrote:

Ken – As I stated in my previous email “you are ordered to stop all work on the property with the exception of removing the woody debris from the wetland to an area out of the 100 foot regulated area. The area we discussed on site yesterday is appropriate to pile the logs, branches and wood chips. At this point no other work should take place including the removal or grinding of the stumps on the site until after the Commission holds the Show Cause Hearing on April 22, 2021. At that meeting they will provide you with further direction.” If you are unable to move any more of the woody debris at this time that is ok. I was under the impression your contractor wanted to move the wood but I can’t imagine a homeowner undertaking that task in just a few days. I think the Commission will expect you to hire some help moving forward to assist you with that task.

Mike Conklin

Director of Environmental Affairs

Town of Wilton

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, CT 06897

Phone (203) 563-0182

From: ken tai <kentai3838@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:57 AM

To: Conklin, Mike <Mike.Conklin@WILTONCT.ORG>

Cc: Herter, Zen <Zen.Herter@WILTONCT.ORG>; Larkin, Elizabeth <elizabeth.larkin@wiltonct.org>

Subject: Re: Cease & Correct Order - 197 Catalpa Road, Wilton Connecticut

Dear Mike,

My family moved to Wilton about 4 months ago mainly because my wife works for a semiconductor company in Wilton. This saved her 2 hours commute each day. Our 6-year-old currently enrolled at Miller-Driscoll, and our 4-year-old is expected to start in September.

We knew there are improvements that need to be made to the house after we bought the house in December 2020. Tree removal and septic pumping were one of those items. Please see the inspection report section 2.3.3.

2.3.3 Several large trees lean toward, or have branches that overhang the home. Encroaching branches should be pruned to prevent broken limb or wind damage. Trees leaning toward or otherwise in close proximity to the home should be further evaluated by an arborist in advance of purchase to assess health and to determine scope / urgency / cost of any tree work or removals that may be needed in the short term. (Exterior Rear)

It was quite nerve-racking during the winter storms and seeing the tree swing wildly back and forth. Both my wife and I grew within an area with hurricanes (typhoons), we were afraid of having trees so close and leaning toward or overhanging the house.

When we had the septic pumped in January, the person from Andersons Septics showed me that there was water flowing back from the drain field to the septic tank (Please see attached email to confirm this.). This could be a sign of drain field failure; there were several large trees near the drain field. Tree root could be blocking the pipes. This is another reason I want to cut down some trees in the backyard where the leach field is located.

One of the trees was leaning toward my neighbor's fence. (Please see my email exchange with the contractor.)

Having lived in NYC since 2010 and various places in Asia, we were also uninformed about wetland. During our house search, we used Wilton GIS - (wilton.mapxpress.net); and later U Conn GIS (<http://cteco.uconn.edu/viewers/index.htm>) and Federal wetland and flood zone websites. None of them shows wetland at our property at 197 Catalpa Rd(see wilton gis.png). I wish that I could have seen the map that Mike has shown me earlier! (Is it possible to get a scan copy? I took a picture of the map when I first met Mike; but I had only taken a portion of the map.)

The contractor, William Redrovan (WR Landscaping and Tree Work Service LLC, Danbury, CT), who also worked for the prior owner, pointed out the leaning trees to me and warned that those trees need to be cut. This confirmed the inspection report - so I decided to cut down some trees as the weather warms. I called two of his reference customers and they provided positive feedback. The contractor showed me the insurance paper. I thought that he would have done the right thing; and he did not inform me about proper disposal and 100 ft restriction of wetland area.

Once Mike told me about the regulation, I provided complete support and showed him the property immediately. I asked the contractor to stop work as he instructed; even stopping tree cutting in the front yard which is outside of the restricted zone. I have asked the contractor to remove tree debris from the restricted area on 4/19 but they did not show up. Previously, they also refused to move the wood debris to the designated area that Mike has told me. I am still contacting other companies but no responses as yet. Being new here, I am struggling to find trustworthy contractors.

I don't want to wait for the contractor any more. Between my dad, my wife, and myself (under COVID-vaccine induced fever), we have started relocating the wood debris outside the 100ft zone by hand (Please see pictures), as much as we can. There are some pieces that are too big for us to move, can we cut them into smaller pieces? I am also looking for a contractor with an excavator or crane to help move the large pieces out.

There are still 3 trees fallen and some very large branches on the ground. What do I need to do now to be compliant?

Can I keep some of the wood under the house overhang to dry as firewood but it is within the 100ft zone?

Is there a town guideline that I should be following in the first place? I have questions about taking down trees outside the 100 ft zone, if I need permits? Can I plant trees within the 100ft zone; in the existing lawn area?

Let me know if there is anything I can clarify? Can you confirm receipt of this email? Because this has some large attachments.

Thank you.

Ken.



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20210420_105216.jpg



20210420_105310.jpg



Gmail - Andersons Septic - 197 Catalpa Rd.pdf



Gmail - Tree work - WR.pdf



Inspection Report - Summary_27233-4300.pdf



wilton gis.png

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 4:18 PM Conklin, Mike <Mike.Conklin@wiltonct.org> wrote:

Ken -- Please find attached a scanned copy of the Cease & Correct Order that we discussed yesterday. It explains that you are ordered to stop all work on the property with the exception of removing the woody debris from the wetland to an area out of the 100 foot regulated area. The area we discussed on site yesterday is appropriate to pile the logs, branches and wood chips. At this point no other work should take place including the removal or grinding of the stumps on the site until after the Commission holds the Show Cause Hearing on April 22, 2021. At that meeting they will provide you with further direction.

Mike Conklin

Director of Environmental Affairs

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