



MEETING MINUTES
ELECTRONIC ZOOM MEETING
January 28, 2021

PRESENT: Nick Lee (Chair), Claudia Avallone, Scott Fischer, Mike Whitted

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs; Zen Herter, Environmental Analyst; Patti Griffin, Property Owner; Michael Attanasio, Property Owner; Jennifer Huestis, Huestis Tucker Architects; Chris Elkow, Elise Landscape Design

ABSENT: Rick Stow (not notified of intended absence)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lee called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Mr. Conklin announced that the Public Hearing for Behrens is not going forward per the owner's request at the last meeting. The Public Hearing is scheduled to open on February 11, 2021.

II. SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS

A. GRIFFIN – 67 Borglum Road – clearing of 10 trees, and wood piles and chips deposited within 100 ft. of a wetland or watercourse

Mr. Herter explained the property owner removed trees for safety reasons, not realizing she needed a permit. He confirmed there are three wetlands on the site. Ms. Griffin added that she is handicapped and needs to construct a ramp, but is willing to add any mitigation the Commission feels is necessary.

Mr. Fischer MOVED to UPHOLD the Cease & Desist and require a Corrective Action Application submitted by March 10, 2021, SECONDED by Ms. Avallone and CARRIED 4-0-0 with all in favor.

B. ATTANASIO – 47 Mollbrook Drive – unauthorized clearing of understory vegetation within a regulated area

Mr. Herter explained he was notified of unauthorized understory clearing around a watercourse. He noted the intent was most likely to remove brush and branches to make additional yard space. Mr. Attanasio explained Isaias created a mess of fallen trees. He explained he cut a large tree

that fell across the driveway and the trunk still remains in place. He added that he removed one dead tree. Mr. Conklin explained the understory is completely cleared but the wetland was still shaded from the overstory trees that remain.

Mr. Attanasio confirmed he will re-plant shrubs in the area for success in low light. He noted there is an iron pin where his property falls in Westport. Mr. Conklin confirmed this Commission has no purview and cannot regulate anything in Westport.

Mr. Fischer MOVED to UPHOLD the Cease & Desist and require a Corrective Action Application by submitted by March 10, 2021, SECONDED by Ms. Avallone and CARRIED 4-0-0 with all in favor.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. WET#2654(S) BEHRENS – 220 Nod Hill Road – “corrective action” to address the unpermitted clearing of trees within a regulated area

The Public Hearing was Continued at the request of the property owner.

V. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE REVIEWED

A. WET#2663(S) DAVIS-CHEN – 105 Nod Hill Road – proposed new single-family residence with associated site improvements

Mr. Lee confirmed the DRAFT Resolution was sent to the Commissioners for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Fischer MOVED to APPROVE the Draft Resolution for WET#2663, SECONDED by Mr. Whitted and CARRIED 4-0-0 with all in favor.

B. WET#2672(I) GALANTE – 93 West Meadow Road – additions and alterations to existing dwelling

Mr. Conklin explained there were several pre-Application meetings for this project. He confirmed a permit was issued previously for this activity, which has since expired.

Ms. Huestis explained the proposal to expand the one-car garage to add room for a second vehicle. She noted the garbage enclosure is no longer proposed as a mud-room extension is now planned with a porch and steps to that area. The existing deck will be enclosed for a dining room addition. The distance from the house to the wetland is currently 47 ft. and the proposal will bring it to 40 ft. from wetlands. Ms. Huestis confirmed the mitigation proposed will match the size of the additions.

Mr. Elkow advised the gravel patio will be slightly extended and an outdoor kitchen constructed. The wetland buffer will be replanted with native trees, bushes and perennials. Mr. Fischer stated this plan would be a vast improvement to the health of the wetland.

Ms. Avallone MOVED to APPROVE WET#2672, with normal Special Conditions,

SECONDED by Mr. Whitted and CARRIED 4-0-0 with all in favor.

IV. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE ACCEPTED

A. WET#2674(S) WALTERS-FRANCIQUE – 129 Skunk Lane – proposed in-ground pool and associated site improvements

Mr. Fischer MOVED to ACCEPT WET#2674 and schedule for the next available meeting, SECONDED by Ms. Avallone CARRIED 4-0-0 with all in favor.

VI. APPROVED MINOR ACTIVITIES

A. WET#2669(M) JACOBSON – 40 Sunset Pass – proposed shed on crushed stone 45 ft. from a watercourse

B. WET#2670(M) SCHELLER – 26 Lovers Lane – proposed seating area with electric lines adjacent to the Norwalk River

Mr. Conklin provided a brief review of the Minor Applications approved by Staff.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE - None

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting Minutes January 14, 2021

Mr. Fischer MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2021 as drafted, SECONDED by Mr. Whitted and CARRIED 4-0-0 in favor.

IX. ADJOURN

Mr. Whitted MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:18pm, SECONDED by Ms. Avallone and CARRIED 4-0-0 with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Larkin
Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs