



MEETING MINUTES
ELECTRONIC ZOOM MEETING
February 11, 2021

PRESENT: Nick Lee (Chair), Claudia Avallone, Scott Fischer, Rick Stow, Dora Pinou

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs; Zen Herter, Environmental Analyst; Christopher Smith, Property Owner; Hermann Behrens, Property Owner; Kate Throckmorton, Environmental Land Solutions; Cara Murphy, Libby, Hoopes, & Brooks P.C.; Tracy Chalifoux, Tracy Chalifoux, LLC

ABSENT: Mike Whitted (not notified of intended absence)

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Commissioners welcomed their new member, Dora Pinou.

II. SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS

A. SMITH – 230 Danbury Road – clearing of 10 trees, and wood piles and chips deposited within 100 ft. of a wetland or watercourse

Mr. Herter explained the violation and timeframe. He described there was a crew doing tree work along a watercourse to prepare a driveway or a trail.

Mr. Smith noted he just purchased the property and was not aware of the Regulations of the Inland Wetland Commission. He explained there was an existing path on the perimeter of the property which he wanted to re-clear. He noted he purchased the property to avoid an 8-lot subdivision.

Mr. Fischer MOVED to UPHOLD the Cease & Desist and require a Corrective Action Application submitted by March 23, 2021, SECONDED by Mr. Stow and CARRIED 5-0-0 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

Mr. Conklin confirmed the fee was paid for the Corrective Action Application and reminded the Commission this property is still under a Cease & Desist Order.

Ms. Throckmorton explained the site and mitigation proposed. She confirmed 19 large canopy trees were removed on this and SNEW properties. The proposed mitigation will maintain some of the site as meadow and plant more than what is shown on an historical aerial view. She confirmed the owners wish to finish constructing a retaining wall and stone stairs. The mitigation proposes invasive control and removal of the mitigation area.

Ms. Murphy, Attorney for South Norwalk Electric & Water, stated they working with owners on their concerns regarding invasives removal, as well as how to water the new plants. They are currently looking for additional data on types of trees and timing as the current snow cover is a hinderance. Mr. Lee stated it is imperative to this Commission to know where SNEW stands.

With no further questions or discussion, the Public Hearing was continued.

B. WET#2673(S) JAEHNIG – 17 Hidden Lake Ridge – proposed in-ground pool and associated site improvements within a regulated area and B100a

Ms. Chalifoux explained the wetlands at the northwest and southern portion of the site. She confirmed three trees are proposed to be removed for pool and one additional declining tree to the west. They are also proposing a small pool pad for the equipment and a new underground propane tank south of parking area approximately 90 ft. from wetlands.

Mr. Stow MOVED to APPROVE WET#2673 with normal Special Conditions, SECONDED by Mr. Fischer and CARRIED 4-0-1 with Ms. Avallone in favor, Mr. Fischer in favor, Mr. Lee in favor, Mr. Stow in favor with Ms. Pinou abstaining.

V. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE REVIEWED - None

IV. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE ACCEPTED

A. WET#2675(I) AUGUSTINE – 27 Ground Pine Road – proposed new septic system within a regulated area

B. WET#2676(I) CASSIDY – 368 Nod Hill Road – proposed additions and other site improvements within a regulated area

Mr. Fischer MOVED to ACCEPT WET#2675 & WET#2676 and schedule for the next available meeting, SECONDED by Mr. Stow CARRIED 5-0-0 with all in favor.

VI. APPROVED MINOR ACTIVITIES - None

VII. CORRESPONDENCE - None

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting Minutes January 28, 2021

Mr. Fischer MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2021 as drafted, SECONDED by Ms. Avallone and CARRIED 3-0-2 with Ms. Avallone in favor, Mr. Fischer in favor, Mr. Lee in favor, and Ms. Pinou and Mr. Stow abstaining.

Ms. Pinou asked some questions about the processes of the Commission.

IX. ADJOURN

Mr. Fischer MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:40 pm, SECONDED by Mr. Stow and CARRIED 5-0-0 with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Larkin
Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs