



MINUTES

December 14, 2017

PRESENT: John Hall (Chair), Liz Craig, Kathie Mandel, Mark Andrews, Tom Burgess, Nick Lee, Rick Stow

ALSO PRESENT: Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hall called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

III. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE REVIEWED - None

IV. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE ACCEPTED

A. WET#2498(I) YATES – 15 Olmstead Hill Road – proposed new home construction and associated activities

Mr. Lee MOVED to ACCEPT WET#2498, SECONDED by Ms. Mandel and CARRIED 7-0-0.

V. APPROVED MINOR ACTIVITIES - None

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. WET#1189(S) ANSPACH – 232 Ridgefield Road – permit extension request

Ms. Larkin advised that the applicant is requesting an additional 5-year extension of their permit that was issued in 2002. Per statute, the applicant is only able to obtain an additional four year extension.

Mr. Lee MOVED to GRANT a 4-year extension to the permit, SECONDED by Mr. Stow and CARRIED 7-0-0.

B. CAREY - 217 Olmstead Hill Road – request for extension of “corrective action” for tree clearing

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF WILTON
2017 DEC 18 A 10:20
BY: ALF

Ms. Larkin read an email from the Applicant's Engineer requesting an extension for their "corrective action" application due date.

The commission was concerned that the site is not stabilized. Mr. Lee stated they only cut trees and the area should be stable. Mr. Hall commented that the survey can be done as there is not a lot of snow cover.

Mr. Lee MOVED to GRANT a one month extension for the "corrective action" application so it is due on January 24th at 3pm, SECONDED by Mr. Burgess and CARRIED 7-0-0.

Mr. Andrews MOVED to ADD a NRWA Letter to the Agenda for discussion, SECONDED by Ms. Mandel and CARRIED 7-0-0.

C. NRWA Letter to Commission dated December 14, 2017 – Mr. Burgess advised that he was contacted by Tom Dubin about some concerns of the Norwalk River Watershed Association. He suggested to him that a representative attend a meeting to discuss the concerns. As nobody was unavailable to attend, a letter was submitted.

Ms. Craig explained from the NRWA perspective, there is pressure from the town for development. The intent of the NRWA is environmental protection and they want to ensure that our commission is doing everything we can to protect the environment. Ms. Craig explained Louise Washer's ex-husband lives near the Borglum Road site and was concerned about the additional clearing that took place. Mr. Hall noted this was a violation situation and the commission is requiring mitigation plantings.

Ms. Craig stated the perception from residents is that the town is too friendly and familiar with Casey Healy who represents most of the larger developments in Wilton. She added that there was an appearance of things being expedited from the town for the LTWJ Application. Mr. Hall stated perception is not always reality and he thinks this commission is very committed. He noted that he thinks the commission is harder on Mr. Healy than other attorneys. The fact that the Brubeck Application is being appealed on both sides is a testament to what this commission is accomplishing.

A discussion ensued relating to the public nature of the commission meetings. Mr. Hall stated he is thrilled that a watch group is being formed and he is confident once they attend meetings and see what decisions are being made, their perception will change. Ms. Craig commented that she was unhappy with the third party review for LTWJ as that application should not have been approved. Mr. Stow stated he listens the expert testimony, especially third party reviewers, water company, and organizations such as NRWA very carefully and this weighs heavily on his final decision. Mr. Andrews stated that arguing for 1 vs. 2 acre zoning for the LTWJ Application is not something within our purview as it falls under Planning and Zoning.

VII. OTHER APPROPRIATE BUSINESS

A. 2018 Meeting Schedule – Mr. Lee MOVED to APPROVE the 2018 Meeting Schedule as drafted, SECONDED by Mr. ANDREWS and CARRIED 7-0-0.

B. 2018 Election – Mr. Lee MOVED to KEEP the current slate of officers: Mr. Hall is

Chairman, Ms. Craig is Vice Chair and Mr. Stow is Secretary, SECONDED by Mr. Andrews and CARRIED 7-0-0.

C. Violations

- i. **WET#2449(I) – MCFARLAND – 14 Partrick Lane** – “corrective action” for tree clearing

Ms. Larkin advised that there is no update to this violation as it is being handled in Federal Court.

D. Approval of Minutes – November 9, 2017 Site Walk & November 9, 2017 Regular Meeting

Ms. Craig MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes from the November 9, 2017 Site Walk and Regular Meeting, SECONDED by Mr. Andrews and CARRIED 7-0-0.

VIII. ADJOURN

Ms. Mandel MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:16 pm, SECONDED by Mr. Andrews and CARRIED 7-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Larkin
Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs