

**SUFFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MEETING OF APRIL 22, 2014**

PRESENT: Art Christian, Chairman
Glenn Neilson, Vice Chairman
Norm John Noble
Pat Reilly
Glenn Vincent
Andy Krar

TOWN COUNSEL Tim Smith

CONSULTANT: Keith Morris

CALL MEETING TO ORDER-6: 00 P.M.

Chairman Art Christian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Consultant Keith Morris read the agenda. Chairman Christian stated that alternate Glenn Vincent shall be a voting member in place of Commissioner Ray Wilcox, who was not in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Commission entered into executive session at 6:05 P.M. and exited executive session at 6:30 P.M. In executive session the Commission discussed the violation at 123 Austin Street.

APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE:

Permit #1617 – LaFleur – Single Family Home – Branch Road. This property is located on the north side of Branch Road, nearest intersection being Michael Lane. Assessor’s map Number 68H, Block 47, Lot 120.

Consultant Morris updated the Commission on this application for construction of a single-family home on Branch Road. The application is complete and there is no proposed work within regulated areas. After a brief discussion, Vice Chairman Neilson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Reilly, to accept the application of Walter LaFleur and put it on the agenda for decision at the May 13, 2014 meeting of the Commission. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CONSULTANT'S REPORT

Consultant Morris updated the Commission on the Canon sand pit. The current owners of the property want to confirm the Commission's decision issued in a letter to the Zoning and Planning Commission on September 9, 2003, that a permit is not needed from the Commission as long as the proposed work is as per the plans presented at that time. After a brief discussion the Commission agreed that this letter remains in effect as long as the proposed work followed the plans presented at that time. Consultant Morris also discussed a permit that has expired for construction of three homes on Ratley Road. After a brief discussion the Commission decided that the current owner would have to come back to refile for a new permit given the time that has elapsed since the original approval.

Commissioner Reilly made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Noble, to add the Parks Superintendent's report to the agenda. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

PARKS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Parks Superintendent Tom Drakeley presented his report to the Commission. He is going to need two or three loads of beach sand this year to repair the erosion on the beach. The rocks along the dam have settled over the winter. The Director of Public Works shall be contacted regarding this matter. The pavilion is already rented for most of the summer. The access to the lower field needs new stairs and ramp. After discussion, it was decided that the Park Superintendent shall construct new stairs and access ramp.

PUBLIC INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Violation – 123 Austin Street

Bob Reed was present representing the property owner. Consultant Morris gave the Commission an update on the violation. Mr. Morris stated that the Commission has asked the applicant to attend the meeting to present the results of investigatory work on the site or to give a time frame as to when this work will be completed. Mr. Reed addressed the Commission. He discussed several issues including the possibility of deeding approximately three or four acres of land on the corner of Firestone Drive and Austin Street to the Commission as open space as a form of mitigation. He also stated that the Town map shows the area as uplands and therefore there is no violation. A discussion followed regarding this issue and the

question of why fieldwork has not been completed to verify that the area filled was upland and not wetland. The original approved site plan, which shows the area field delineated as wetland was also discussed.

Mr. Reed stated that no fieldwork has been done based on the recommendation of his attorney, Janet Brooks. Ms. Brooks recommended to him that the Commission needs to go back to previous landowners and Town agencies to resolve issues regarding the original fill placed in the area without a permit. A discussion followed with Chairman Christian asking Mr. Reed if this was his final decision regarding the violation. He stated that it was. Chairman Christian thanked Mr. Reed for attending the meeting.

HEARING (7:30 P.M.)

Permit # 1616 – Hamlet Homes – Wetland Map Amendment – East Street. This property is located on the east side of East Street South, nearest intersection being Boston Neck Road. Assessor’s Map Number 69H, Block 55, Lot 83.

Chairman Art Christian declared the public hearing open at 7:30 P.M. Consultant Morris read the legal notice and stated that all the abutters have been notified via certified mail as required by the regulations. Mr. Morris also notified the Commission that late in the afternoon he received a report from State Soil Scientist David Askew and handed a copy of the report to each Commissioner and also to the general public. He stated that Mr. Askew’s report agreed with the wetland boundary as delineated by the applicant’s soil scientist Thomas Petras. Mr. Petras then gave a brief description of the wetlands on site followed by a brief discussion by the Commission.

Public Comment:

Roxanne Davis, 856 East Street: - Ms. Davis had concerns regarding streams on the land that are not shown on the plan. Mr. Petras stated that these areas, investigated with Mr. Askew, did not meet the State’s definition of a watercourse and therefore are not shown on the plan. Consultant Morris added that Mr. Askew references these areas in his report.

Hearing no other discussion, Chairman Christian closed the public hearing at 7:50 P.M. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Reilly made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Noble, to approve the wetland map amendment as depicted on the submitted plans and as discussed in a report by State Soil Scientist David Askew in his report dated April 22, 2014. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Commission again entered into executive session from 7:57 P.M. until 8:15 P.M. to discuss the violation at 123 Austin Street.

It was decided during discussion after the executive session that, based on the recommendation of Town Counsel, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers would be contacted and informed of the violation at 123 Austin Street. Town Counsel shall contact these agencies via telephone and follow up with a letters on behalf of the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 11, 2014

Commissioner Noble made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion, which was made and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Vincent made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman Neilson. The motion was made and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Norm John Noble

Recording Secretary