

From: Lois Laczko November 16, 2011 9:43:31 AM
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To: SimsburyCT_ConserveMin
Cc:

CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLANDS &
WATERCOURSES AGENCY MINUTES
OCTOBER 4, 2011
REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Margery Winters, Acting Chairman, called the Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. Other members and alternates in attendance were Patrick Kottas, Ryan Mihalic, and Donald Rieger. Also present were Howard Beach, Conservation Officer, Janis Prifti, Commission Clerk, and other interested parties.

II. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Chairman Winters appointed Commissioner Rieger to serve for Commissioner Bucknam and Commissioner Kottas to serve for Commissioner Sexton.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 21, 2011, and September 20, 2011

Postponed and tabled.

IV. PRESENTATION(s), DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE

a. Application of Tom and Caroline Leite, Owners, Michel Cosmos, Connecticut Pools and Spa, Applicant, for an Inland Wetlands Permit for activities associated with the construction of an 18-foot x 40-foot inground concrete pool within the 100-foot regulated area to a wetland on property located at 18 Banbury Drive. (Map A-14, Block 410, Lot 57) (tabled at meeting held on September 20, 2011)

Mr. Beach said the Applicant is asking for a postponement and 60-day extension due to variance and flood plain issues.

b. Application of Gerard G.Toner, Director of Parks and Recreation, Town of Simsbury - Owner, William Oliver, Applicant, for an Inland Wetlands

Permit for activities associated with the construction of an information kiosk (as his Eagle Scout project) in the Pinchot Sycamore Park area within the 100-foot regulated area to a wetland on property located on Hartford Road (Map G-15, Block 108, Lot 11)

Will Oliver, presented his Eagle Scout project with the required proposal and writeup with plans, suggested sites for a kiosk, installation instructions, etc. He showed a number of potential kiosk locations on a map for reference with the final location decided by Mr. Toner and the Commission; Mr. Toner prefers the #1 location at the far end of the parking lot. He also provided a diagram, blueprints and line drawings of the kiosk based on a DEEP design similar to Heublein Tower. It is 8 feet wide x 10 feet tall with 6x6 pressure treated posts and was reviewed by the Town Building Inspector. There are concrete footings at the bottom with 6 cubic yards of concrete per post with the holes dug by hand and the concrete hand mixed and poured using an 18 inch form. The kiosk is prefabricated into sections and will be transported in his Father's pickup truck and assembled on site. Material from the post holes will primarily be backfilled with remaining soil scattered in a wetland area. Pressure treated wood needs a year to cure before it is stained or painted, so the only maintenance in 5-10 years from now would be stain; however, he will be in college and will not do it. The land where they dig is outside the parking area in a grass area; Arlene Fielding in the Watershed Department is his sponsor. The project is to clean up the ecosystem of the Farmington river completely with parking prevention and for recreational users to keep in mind, and as a correction the 90 active members canoed in 5-12 person parties from the Avon border to Tariffville park and removed nonhazardous human trash in 7-8 pickup loads. The information kiosk will have a map of the river highlighting put-in and take-out areas available on the river, litter laws and anything the Town wishes to post. He will blow up the map and add anything Mrs. Fielding at FRWA would like regarding environmental protection; the map will be laminated. The project will take place over the next two weekends and be completed by 10/27. This is Town land and he will go for a Building Permit next and has already received Board of Selectmen permission.

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion that it is a regulated activity because it involves removal of material and construction of a kiosk in an upland review area adjacent to a wetland. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rieger, and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion that it is not a significant activity because the disturbance in the upland review area will be minimal and will be used by less intrusive means by hand shoveling the holes and not using any heavy equipment to bring the kiosk into the area where the kiosk will be completed and constructed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner

Rieger, and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion that the permit be approved subject to any conditions staff may set forth in the report. Commissioner Rieger suggested amending this to set a preference for site; Commissioner Mihalic so amended. Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion as amended, and it was approved unanimously.

c. Application of Richard L. Sawitzke, Town Engineer/Director of Capital Projects, Applicant, for an Inland Wetlands Permit for activities associated with the replacement of the Bissell Brook box culvert within the 100-foot regulated area to a wetland on property located near 511 Firetown Road. (Map C-3, Block 202)

Mr. Beach said this was an emergency repair after the hurricane and next 6-8 inch rain storm and required closing the road Thursday; on Friday a bypass channel was dug. He said there are five sections (4 are 20 tons each); the bottom is set one foot below stream level, but sand has already washed into the sand-based stream. The low spot on the road is 50 feet east of the bridge and cuts a trough to the river; Rich proposes putting a storm drain to allow dumping on the east side of the road; another catch basin would be installed at a 90 degree angle to the stream. It will be stabilized with conservation mix; however, the beavers dam it up regularly. Chairman Winters suggested that it be stabilized with woody vegetation. Mr. Beach said the neighbor has been cutting brush and stacking it next to the stream and says the beavers will not use it and do not build dams in that area. Mr. Beach said they seem to like quickly building dams at the culvert and they hope the new culvert will be less attractive. Mr. Beach said the road was overtopped by storm rain water with the former 4 foot pipe; the new pipe is 6-8 inches higher temporarily until the soil on top is removed and the area paved. Regarding the need for a permit, Mr. Beach said this was a planned project and a cease and restore order can be issued; the bridge had been failing and grant money became available; the Commission can anticipate adding two culverts into the requested permit. He said the western bank will be dug up again; a huge sandbar is in the middle has been pulled back and water is running clear. The diversion was backfilled and the bucket quickly used to restabilize the area. The Commissioners agreed to hold the permit open anticipating Rich will be in by the end of the week with the modification.

V. VOTE RECEIPT OF NEW APPLICATION(s)

Mr. Beach said there are two applications proceeding for the next meeting. One for the Land Trust for a wooden footbridge for a new property on Great Pond Road. The second one is for McElman on Firetown Road - after engineer

and soil reviews, there is 3/4 acre in an R15 zone with two lots for two houses. A public hearing is automatically scheduled and they will come to Wetlands before Planning; they should come in with a permit for what they hope to build. He said they spoke with Rich Sawitzke about drainage issues and he wants them to take roof leaders out to Firetown's storm drain system with curtain drains around the foundation piped to the stream, as groundwater typically flows offsite before the 2-day surge. Rich said the bigger issue is the elevation to build the basements at to be dry; a slab or stilts may be better and save money on grading.

VI. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Beach said the full LID will be in place for the next meeting; this Commission is the most involved. Commissioner Rieger and Rich Sawitzke attended last week's LID meeting and said some modifications the Commission requested were made. He said the final paragraph of the ordinance talks about what property owners should do for maintenance if a wetland water course goes through their land - it says they should remove excess vegetation; and the consultant will put into the checklist actually creating and maintaining a vegetative buffer of native plants around the water course. Mr. Beach stated the report is final and any changes now will be put in by the Boards when they adopt it; once adopted it would be part of Zoning Regulations with statutory authority. Commissioner Rieger said the burden is less for individual residential buildings, but for multi-unit developments it is more rigorous, although the principals apply to residential development, there is a somewhat less burdensome paper process.

VII. DISCUSSION

Mr. Beach said the Rte. 10 Corridor Study should wrap up this month.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Beach said the DOT under duress applied to DEEP for a permit to dredge a pond on Rte 167 Bushy Hill Road; the Town received notification and told the contractor they still needed local permission. He said for the first time DEEP issued an Inland Wetlands Permit that preempts the Town's, presumably because it is a state highway and a state agency applying, even though they hired a private contractor. Chairman Winters expressed concern regarding whether any Rte. 10 Corridor work will be done near wetlands. Mr. Beach said the project was done following complaints of a neighbor; it is a sand-based stream near the firehouse and Wildwood and will likely fill

up again.

Regarding the former gas station next to McDonalds, Mr. Beach said Arcatus is handling the cleanup and are down trying to aerate the anaerobic soil by continuing to inject microbes and repeating the process. He said this was caused by an underground gasoline tank leak for some time. The Getty Station downtown and neighboring dry cleaner both had leaks; most gas stations in town have had stripping towers for leaks at one time. Since working for the Town, he has received over 8 inches of paper reporting spills. Commissioner Rieger stated all gas tanks are now double hulled; however, Mr. Beach said the act of testing by dropping the long rod cracked tanks so now they are armored plated under the test hole.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rieger moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mihalic, and passed unanimously.

Ryan Mihalic, Secretary