

From: Lois Laczko November 16, 2011 9:49:51 AM
Subject: Conservation Commission Minutes 10/18/2011 ADOPTED
To: SimsburyCT_ConserveMin
Cc:

CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLANDS &
WATERCOURSES AGENCY MINUTES
OCTOBER 18, 2011
REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Margery Winters, Acting Chairman, called the Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:33 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. Other members and alternates in attendance were Patrick Kottas, Darren Cunningham, Margaret Sexton, 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 Mihalic.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 21, 2011, and September 20, 2011, and October 4, 2011.

Changes to the September 20, 2011, minutes included: On line 18, changing "Chairman Winters" to "Chairman Miller"; and on lines 148-150, correcting the spelling of "sonnen ? tubes" to "Sonotube". Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the September 20, 2011, minutes as amended. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

The June 21, 2011 and October 4, 2011 minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING(s), DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE

a. Application of Jeff and Jessica Palazzo, Owners, for an Inland Wetlands Permit for activities associated with the construction of two (2) houses within the 100-foot upland review area to a wetland on property located on Firetown Road. (Map F-6, Block 107, Lot 2 - Lot between house numbers 253 and 261)

This was tabled until the next meeting due to issues with the application.

V. PRESENTATION(s), DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE

a. 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) (continued from 10/4/11 meeting)

Mr. Sawitzke apologized for the project being out of sequence, but due to hurricane and storm damage it was necessary to move quickly. He stated the project was funded by a FEMA Declaration Grant from the 2007 flooding. He said the purpose of the project was to replace an old 4-foot diameter corrugated metal pipe installed after the the 1955 floods with a 4x12 foot precast box culvert. He said the bottom of the culvert is one-foot below the stream with natural materials building up and the need to have fish passage available during flows; there was a lot of severe erosion and a lot of backwater. He said the disturbed area lies within the existing road right of way and they primarily excavated old stone headwalls and manmade material under the road. He stated they tried to put the culvert in the same general direction as the brook and work the ends around. He said the property the culvert is on is .1 acres with a large wetland area down- and upstream of 80 contiguous acres. He said the wetland soils in the area are Rumney sandy loams and Scarborough loams and the water course is a stable year-round stream. He said they disturbed about 780 feet of stream or essentially what was already buried in the culvert and all the material removed was nonwetland fill. He said they took out approximately 22 cu. yards of wetland soils on the edges consisting of Rumney sandy loams and disturbed about .02 acres of wetland. He said the area vegetation is primarily grasses and skunk cabbage; they removed substantial amounts of road sand on both ends of the stream and found no ground or surface water quality deterioration. He said they built a bypass channel with a proper dam on one end and project generally positive long-term impacts for fish passage and elimination of road-side erosion. He said the job spanned 3 days and came in under the \$85K estimate and was fully covered by the FEMA grant. He said the sides were regraded due to a fair amount of runoff on the south side of Firetown Road and they added catch basins; they tried to avoid using too much stone; they reseeded with native meadow grass and winter rye while cutting down on removing material. He said the straight road sand removed was minimal; rather, there was a lot of erosion and growth. He said the beavers have moved on after eating the desirable vegetation. Mr. Beach confirmed the water continued to run clear throughout this operation with little turbidity. Mr. Sawitzke said the areas planted are stabilized and natural grasses removed from the delta are

now growing around the inlet/outlet areas; Merritt Parkway guiderails were installed; and the area will be reviewed periodically. He said only the paving remains to be done.

Commissioner Rieger made a motion that this is a regulated activity as it involves construction in a wetland area with alteration of a water course and creation of stormwater drainage discharge. Commissioner Kottas seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rieger made a motion that the Commission find that this was not a significant activity as it disturbed only a very small area of wetland and was done in a way that gave very good control of risk of erosion and siltation by installing a box culvert, was sensitive to fish habitat, and on the whole was done so as to not cause significant damage to the wetland. Commissioner Kottas seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Rieger made a motion to grant the permit. Commissioner Kottas seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Mr. Sawitzke stated many box culverts have been installed in various Town locations over the years and they are putting together a list of problem areas. He said they have been using the box culverts for 4 foot and over spans, and under 4 feet, they are using high density polyethylene corrugated smooth wall pipes which are easier to handle.

b. Application of Chuck Howard, President, Simsbury Land Trust, Applicant, for an Inland Wetlands Permit for activities associated with the construction of the Wagner Woods wooden Footbridge within the 100-foot regulated area to a wetland on property located at 153 Great Pond Road. (Map D-7, Block 303, Lot 002)

Commissioner Rieger recused himself because of his involvement with this matter on the Land Trust's behalf. Chairman Winters stated she is an ex officio member of the Land Trust, but has had no involvement in this project.

Jim Ray, Steward for the 62-acre contiguous property, said this donation from the Wagner family is a major addition to the Land Trust. He said access is currently through a small wooden gate at 153 Great Pond Road almost directly across from the Great Pond Forest Trail. He stated this year provided the opportunity to see where water is located - there is a vernal pool along the entry road and more of a pond spreading downstream through a marsh area and into Hopbrook. He said there is a manmade small ditch that has water only when it rains; the footbridge would simply span this area to protect it and would use 6x6's and 2x's, with flooring and

railings. He said the road is nearby and they will carry the material in and assemble it on site in a morning. He said the foundation is basically a stack on top above the natural area maintaining a clear span with nothing obstructing flow; it will be chained to a mature local white pine. He stated they will use modern environmentally friendly wood to construct the bridge left over from other Land Trust projects. He said many of these projects are done by Eagle Scouts and they will do this work with volunteers and plan to have it in place by winter. He said while the pond is not named, the trails are named after family-owners beginning in the 1930's, e.g. Sturley, Bones and Wagner. He stated this is a walking trail, with no specific exclusion of mountain bikes.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion that this is a regulated activity because it is within the 100-foot upland review area to a wetland. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion that this is not a significant activity because the plan, as presented, is limited to nonexistent disturbance within the upland review area, the fact that there is road access, and materials will be brought in by hand. Commissioner Kottas seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to accept the application to approve the plan. Commissioner Kottas seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

V. VOTE RECEIPT OF NEW APPLICATION(S)

Mr. Sawitzke presented an application for a stone-lined channel on a small tributary intermittent stream for Hopbrook located on Hopbrook Road. Mr. Beach stated this is at the end of Brook Drive there is a small culvert that brings water over through an existing channel which flows by the golf course and down to the pond at Hophollow. He said the bank is severely eroded and this project will restore it.

VI. STAFF REPORT

None.

VII. DISCUSSION

None.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m..
Commissioner Kottas seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Margery Winters, Vice Chairman