

From: Lois Laczko December 22, 2011 1:46:37 PM
Subject: Conservation Commission Minutes 11/15/2011 ADOPTED
To: SimsburyCT_ConserveMin
Cc:

CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLANDS &
WATERCOURSES AGENCY MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2011
REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Richard Miller, Chairman, called the Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. Other members and alternates in attendance were Margaret Sexton, Patrick Kottas, Darren Cunningham, Ryan Mihalic, Margery Winters, 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 Zackeo.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 21, 2011, October 4, 2011, and October 18, 2011

Commissioner Winters made a motion to approve the October 4, 2011, minutes with the following amendments by Commissioner Rieger:

Line 43 - delete the sentence, "There are concrete footings using an 18 inch form."

Line 45 - change "Father's" to "father's".

Line 46 - change "scattered in" to "scattered outside".

Line 110 - change "Rich Sawitzke" to "Rich Miller".

Lines 112 - delete "wetland" and change "water course" to "watercourse".

Line 114 - change "water course" to "watercourse".

Line 117 - change "principals" to "principles".

Commissioner Kottas seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Winters made a motion to approve the October 18, 2011, minutes. Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Rieger made a motion to approve the June 21, 2011, minutes with the amendment on Line 55 to change "intensive" to "intents and". Commissioner Kottas seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF 2012 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion to approve the 2012 meeting schedule with the amendment to eliminate the July 3, 2012, meeting. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

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 protecting an eroded channel with rip-rap or river stone lining within the 100-foot regulated area to a wetland on property located near Hop Brook Road and 2 Apple Lane Road. (Map D-8, Block 147)

Mr. Beach stated this project is on the left-hand side of Brook Drive where a culvert takes the water from Brook Drive underneath Hop Brook to the south side of the road and at some point in time that ditch eroded caused a fairly deep trench. Also, he said when the 2005 and 2007 storms occurred another stream that comes off the golf course under Apple Lane broke loose and tore through the thin armoring eroding further; the confluence of the two cut a 7-8 foot deep trench to the bottom of the hill creating a Mississippi delta in the pond. The neighbors have been trying to get the Town to do something about it for years, and even though it is private property, Mr. Sawitzke finally took a look and determined the Town had some culpability and will re-establish the channel.

Mr. Sawitzke provided a memo at the last Commission meeting showing where the area will be re-armored excavating some of the fill from the pond and reusing it to stabilize the area. He said they hoped to perform the work this fall, but stabilizing the area will probably have to wait until spring. He said because the sandy soil is prone to erosion they will put fabric underneath and rip-rap on top to a point above where the erosion began. Regarding grading the steep hill, he said Mr. Sawitzke will use material with weight to it; Mr. Beach will also discuss with him the idea of using boulders. Mr. Beach said they may put in a couple of stone check dams until the work can be finished in the spring. He said a neighboring house is far enough back that it is not an issue. Mr. Beach said stream stabilization could be done this fall and the brook done in the spring so as to not disturb turtles and creatures living in the mud.

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion that this is a regulated activity because it involves removal of material and building up of the shore of a

watercourse. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion that it is not a significant activity based upon the remedial steps that are being used and the fact that this will actually improve the flow of the watercourse and repair the property of the adjacent houses. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion to approve the permit subject to the following conditions:

That any construction involving removal of material from the pond or the stream does not occur until late spring; and

In the interim if they feel that measures are needed to decrease the velocity of the waterflow, they can take minimally invasive steps to add check dams, as appropriate, and guided by Town staff.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

VI. RECEIPT OF NEW APPLICATION(S)

a. Application of the Simsbury Land Trust, Owner, Town of Simsbury, Applicant, for an Inland Wetlands Permit for activities associated with the installation of a Simsbury Gateway Sign Column within the 100-foot upland review area to a wetland on property located on route 185 at Princess Lane. (Map H-16, Block 109)

Terry Ann Hahn of LADA, P.C. Land Planners said the Town previously located five places to put sign columns. She stated the first sign column was installed at Rte. 10/202 coming in from Avon and this second one will be located on Rte. 185 coming in from Bloomfield at Princess Lane. She said DOT has a discharge pipe in this area and a stream comes through the north side of the road and has been rip-rapped a number of times so the stream location has moved. She said they will place the monument (4x4 square at the bottom) within 6 feet of the stream edge in the scrub vegetation with fill at road level, using proper grading and sloping. She said DOT has signed the application and the Town cannot put the column within DOT's right of way. She added this location was also chosen because it has great visibility, and is further back from the road edge - it is 6 feet from the stream edge to the edge of the fill and 15 feet to the back of the column. She advised that funding for this sign column is approved and in the Town budget at \$10,000+ with \$6-7,000 coming from in-kind donations, including Simscroft and LADA. She said they will put up silt fence on the back side, use compaction and netting, and smooth and seed the whole area. She stated the work should take about two weeks and may be done before Christmas. She said they will similarly use a solar light to illuminate this second sign and beautification organizations will likely do some work on the area.

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion that this is a regulated activity because it involves construction in the upland review area adjacent to a watercourse. Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion that it is not a significant activity based upon the information provided by the applicant of measures that are going to be taken to protect runoff and siltation into the wetland, and the other construction methods that will be used. Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion to approve the permit subject to the condition the applicant discuss with Town staff the best way to stabilize the ground in the location adjacent to the sign before construction and plantings after construction. Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Regarding the other three signs, she said they will be back for approvals over the next three years or more; there are smaller village signs for Weatogue, Tariffville, Terry's Plain and West Simsbury. She said there will be sign columns on Rte. 10/202 near the bowling alley and the one on Bushy Hill will be replaced.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Beach provided a rough draft handout combining some concepts from the Simsbury Center Zone Charrette designs and layouts applied on a site specific basis to potential LID techniques. He said they hope to have regulations for design parameters for the buildings with LID. Regarding approving parking lots without raised islands, he said once this regulation is adopted that will be incorporated. Chairman Miller said the Checklist (pages 1-5) represents the meat of the document and this Commission is the driving force for such progressive regulation. Mr. Beach said in the State, Simsbury has become the model with the Charrette and addition of LID; he noted the LID consultants contract is complete.

Regarding other towns, Chairman Miller said Storrs Center is in Phase I construction under sustainable design guidelines for neighborhood development, but did not incorporate similar LID guidelines; and Tolland has adopted a less comprehensive regulation. He discussed creating a bank to balance impacts on water quality; Mr. Beach said they are still working on that part and the idea of developers paying the Town to deal with a problem elsewhere. However, Mr. Beach said following the guidelines results in zero net impact, even if Town density doubles, because net impermeable surface is not increased with no detrimental effect on water

quality. Mr. Beach said this document would be adopted as part of the Zoning Regulations and could be referenced in this Commission's regulations for subdivisions and commercial. He asked the Commissioners to read and provide comments on the draft which may be adopted in spring.

VIII. DISCUSSION

Mr. Beach mentioned there are many requests for approval to remove trees in wetland soils downed by the recent storm; Commissioner Mihalic read the regulation which permits maintenance of trees. Mr. Beach said the Pinchot tree was damaged but was cabled pretty well and they will decide what to do with the damaged limbs.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mihalic made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Ryan Mihalic, Secretary