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Cc:

ADOPTED

CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Miller called the Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission/ Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency to order at 7:33 PM in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. The following members were present: Commissioners Donald Rieger, Margery Winters and Nick Zackeo. Also in attendance was Howard Beach, Conservation Officer.

II. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Chairman Miller appointed Commissioner Rieger to serve in the absence of Commissioner Bucknam.

Commissioner Winters made a motion to amend the agenda to take Item III (b) next. Commissioner Zackeo seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. PRESENTATION(s), DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE

a. Application of The Simsbury Land Trust, Owner, Kyle Langdell, Applicant, for an Inland Wetlands Permit to construct a foot bridge, spanning Bissell Brook, for the Simsbury Land Trust within the regulated area to a wetland on property known as The Cathles Property, North Saddle Ridge Drive (Map B-5, Lot 24, Block 203). Commissioner Rieger recused himself from the Commission during this discussion.

Kyle Langdell stated that he would like to build this bridge as an Eagle Scout project. This 16 foot bridge will be over a small stream. There is approximately 10 feet of moist ground. He stated that the stream is very small; someone could step across the water. He would like to build this bridge for people to enjoy and so they will not make their own paths across

the stream.

Kyle Langdell stated that he would like to start constructing the bridge as soon as he gets all of the necessary approvals. The construction of the bridge will take place at his house. He will be cutting the wood and pre-drilling the holes at home; the bridge will have three joists that will be the structure of the bridge. The bridge will then be assembled at the site. He stated that he will be using pressure treated wood, which is environmentally friendly. He will be using a Southern Yellow Pine.

Commissioner Winters questioned if the bank of the stream was rocky. Mr. Langdell stated that he would not have to remove any rocks.

Chairman Miller questioned what Mr. Langdell would do with the soil when cutting into the banks and if any vegetation needed to be cleared. Mr. Langdell stated that he is planning on setting the bridge down; there will not be any significant soil taken out. Commissioner Winters stated that if there is any excess soils, that it needs to be placed far enough from the stream so it does not erode back into the stream. Mr. Langdell stated that there may need to be some shrubs taken out and some simple weeding done.

Chairman Miller questioned how the pieces of the bridge would get down to the site. Mr. Langdell stated that the other boys in the Troup will be taking them down by foot.

Chairman Miller stated that the Commission received a letter of support from Chuck Howard, President of the Simsbury Land Trust. Chairman Miller questioned how Mr. Langdell identified the need for this project. Mr. Langdell stated that the Land Trust suggested this project. He stated that this will help with the well-being of the Land Trust as well as something people can enjoy.

Chairman Miller questioned how the cable would be attached to the bridge and to the tree. Mr. Langdell stated that he will be taking the scrap pieces of wood and will string the wire thru the wood so there is no pressure on the tree; there will not be any metal wiring on the trees. He will be wrapping the wire in a loop around the tree. The wire will be slack, not taut.

Chairman Miller questioned if there would be any signage on the bridge. Mr. Langdell stated that he would probably put a plaque on the bridge with his Troup name and number.

Commissioner Winters made a motion that this is a regulated activity because this project is in the watercourse. Commissioner Zackeo seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Winters made a motion that this is not a significant activity because there will be minimal disturbance to the stream bank. Commissioner Zackeo seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Winters made a motion to grant the permit as submitted. This project will be a benefit to the Town and to the Simsbury Land Trust and it will also prevent degradation of the stream bank by other routes across the stream. Commissioner Zackeo seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rieger returned to the Commission.

b. Application of Town of Simsbury – Owner, Gerard Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation, Applicant, for an Inland Wetlands Permit for the construction of a new soccer field (field #6), within the 100-foot upland review area to a wetland on property located at Curtiss Park, Tariffville Road (Route 315).

Mr. Beach stated that the Town received many bids on this project because of the economic times. He stated that this is a 48 acre site, with 18 of those acres being wetlands. The Town would like to put in a soccer field where the dirt parking area currently is. The field will be 50 yards x 80 yards. They will need to take approximately 6,000 yards of material off of the site. He stated that the wetland is located behind the fields. There is no work being proposed in the wetlands, only in the upland review area. Mr. Beach stated that there is an existing drainage system, although there will not be any changes to that. They will need to create a gravel road and parking for the field. The only paving that will be done is for the DOT and for the handicapped accessible parking spaces. They will be moving the parking areas; there will be no net loss in parking spaces. They are also trying to save the significant trees in the back of the property. Several inches of topsoil will be brought onto the site for the field. Commissioner Winters questioned when this work would begin. Mr. Beach stated that the Town has already accepted a bid and would like to start work as soon as possible.

The Commission discussed the drainage issues on the site. Mr. Beach stated that when the engineer showed the drainage going toward the wetland, there was 30-60 feet of meadow grass buffer between the wetland and the parking area. The Commission believed it would be better if the pitch was reversed to drain toward the center of the parking area. Commissioner Zackeo stated that there would not be an overflow into the wetland. Mr. Beach stated that they will be using the existing outlets on the drainage system. Commissioner Winters made a motion that this is a regulated activity because there will be soil disturbance in the regulated area of the wetland. Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Winters made a motion that this is not a significant activity because there is no filling within the wetlands; there will be a net removal of material from the site; and mitigation measures will prevent the sedimentation into the existing wetlands system. Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Winters made a motion to grant this permit with the following stipulations: the drainage of the parking area shall drain toward the center of the parking area to the swale; that the swale be planted with Sweet Fern and Bayberry to tolerate dryer conditions; and planting a native conservation meadow mix in the disturbed areas around the field.

Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 10, 2009 Special Joint Commission Workshop and April 7, 2009 meeting

The minutes were tabled until the next meeting because of a lack of a quorum.

V. RECEIPT OF NEW APPLICATION(s)

a. Application of John Zaczyk, Carolyn Pools, Inc., Applicant, for an Inland Wetlands Permit for the construction of an in-ground pool within the 100-foot regulated area to a wetland on property located at 15 Vining Drive.

Mr. Beach stated that this application will be on the next agenda.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

Commissioner Winters made a motion to amend the agenda to add the administrative approval of 27 Woodlot Road. Commissioner Zackeo seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Beach stated that he did an administrative review for 27 Woodlot Road. The owner would like to put in solar panels. He will need to put in several sonotubes to do this. Mr. Beach stated that this is well away from the wetlands.

Mr. Beach stated that he had two potential administrative reviews come into his office today. He asked that the Commission review them tonight.

Mr. Beach stated that the owners of 17 Bridal Path Road would like to put a shed on their property. There is a drainage way that runs through this property, which is street drainage. There is no flow. The owner would like to place the shed on a pile of crushed stone.

Regarding 17 Bridal Path Road, Mr. Beach stated that there is an existing deck on this house; the owner would like to construct another deck on six hand dug sonotubes. He stated that the wetland area on this property is lawn area back to the property line.

Commissioner Winters made a motion to amend the agenda to add the review of administrative approvals for 17 Bridal Path Road and 18 Banberry Road, which were approved by the Commission. Commissioner Zackeo seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

VII. DISCUSSION

Continuation of discussion on LID standards

Mr. Beach stated that Mr. Peck has applied for a grant under the Farmington

River Enhancement Program for grant monies to write LID into the Zoning Regulations. As part of this work, he has been talking to engineers that specialize in LID development. He is asking them to review the information from this Commission and to use their expertise in coming up with some guidelines. Mr. Peck has not heard back from the engineers that he has been in contact with. Mr. Beach is hopeful that Mr. Peck will have all of this information back prior to the next meeting for this Commission to discuss.

Regarding the LID document that Commissioner Rieger drafted, Chairman Miller stated that this format of the draft is appropriate for more of a guideline and is not meant to be a regulation.

Commissioner Winters stated that regarding site design for habitat or wetlands conservation, she feels that there are some opportunities to suggest, if the applicant wants to go into the wetland upland review areas, then the applicant would need to do conservation plantings elsewhere on the property. She feels that this document should encourage mitigation of any impact. Also under the Native Plants section, she would like the wording, "wherever possible" to be taken out.

Chairman Miller stated that this Commission's function is wetland permitting; he does not believe that the Wetland Conservation section is needed in this document. He stated that where there are numbers or absolutes in the document, he feels that these should be omitted or made more general. He feels that if this document is too descriptive, they will not be able to get it adopted. Chairman Miller stated that Mr. Peck will be producing a red-line draft after talking to the engineers. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Open Space Discussion

Commissioner Winters stated that the Open Space Committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the Meadowood Triangle. They have spent a great deal of time discussing farm land issues; not necessarily on conservation soil, but how to manage portions of land that the Town owns. Commissioner Winters stated that the Board of Selectmen proposed leasing this land to a farmer from New Hartford, although they are not an organic farmer. At the Town meeting where Meadowood was discussed, there was a lot of discussions regarding using this area as a conservation area; there was some discussion about soccer fields and using a portion of the Triangle for farming.

Commissioner Winters stated that at tomorrow's meeting, she will be bringing up that insects that are needed for organic farming rely heavily on native plants outside of the area of the farming. She stated that she will be promoting that this land be a native plants field which will increase the pollinators, and will increase local farm's productivity.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rieger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

