

From: Lois Laczko July 26, 2010 9:15:58 AM
Subject: Conservation Commission Minutes 06/15/2010 ADOPTED
To: SimsburyCT_ConserveMin
Cc:

ADOPTED

CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURCES AGENCY
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
June 15, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Miller called the Conservation meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Commissioner members present were: Andrew Bucknam, Margery Winters, Patrick Kottas, Nick Zackeo, and Donald Rieger, Jr. Also present was Howard Beach, Environmental Compliance Officer.

II. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Chairman Miller appointed Commissioner Rieger to serve in the absence of Commissioner Sexton and Commissioner Kottas to serve in the absence of Commissioner Mihalic.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 1, 2010

Commissioner Winters made a motion to approve the June 1, 2010 minutes as written. Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

IV. PRESENTATION(s), DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE

a. Application of James Jepeal, Applicant, for an Inland Wetlands Permit for activities associated with the construction of a garage/storage addition within the 100-foot regulated area to a wetland on property located at 15 Winthrop Street, Tariffville. (Maps K3 & K4, Block 205, Lot 12)

Mr. Jepeal showed pictures of the existing conditions on this lot. He stated that this is a very deep lot. The existing structure is a raised ranch with a garage and shed. The wetlands were identified on the

property; the construction activity will take place within the 100 foot setback.

Mr. Jepeal stated that the closest the garage addition will get is approximately 50' from the wetlands. He stated that this is not an active waterway; it is only drainage.

Mr. Jepeal stated that the garage addition will have a frost wall foundation. The soil from the excavation will be brought offsite; it will not be stockpiled. No additional asphalt will be constructed for the garages; he will go across the lawn area in order to get to the proposed bays. He stated that the bays will not be used much. He has several antique cars that he would like to store in these bays.

Commissioner Winters questioned when the applicant would like to start this project. Mr. Jepeal stated that he would like to do the work this season. He also does not feel that much will be disturbed in the area.

Mr. Platt, 11 Winthrop Street, stated his concerns regarding the drainage. He stated that this lot pitches from the street; there is a drain in the back. Drainage runs down from Center Street; the majority funnels through his backyard. His concern is that if there is more lawn disturbed, more water will collect in his yard.

Commissioner Bucknam stated that the addition of the impervious surface of the roof will not change the amount of water that is falling on the property. It will just change how it gets to the ground. He does not believe the flow of water will change because of this addition.

Mr. Beach stated that some of the water that Mr. Platt is speaking of is drainage from Center Street, although a lot of the water is natural water that comes off the mountain and flows through these yards. He stated that the amount of water added by this proposed garage is minimal.

Commissioner Bucknam made a motion that this is a regulated activity because the removal of soil and construction are within the upland review area to a wetland. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Bucknam made a motion that this is not a significant activity due to the established lawn that is in place; the fact that there is very little chance for erosion across the relatively flat property that is existing lawn; and there is quite a bit of distance between the proposed activity and the wetlands. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Bucknam made a motion that the Commission grant the permit with the staff recommendations. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

b. Application of the Simsbury Land Trust, Owner, Connor Barnett, Eagle Scout Candidate, Applicant for an Inland Wetlands Permit for the construction of segments of boardwalk and footbridges across wetlands and in the upland review area to a wetland on property located on the Land Trust's "Owen-Mortimer" property at 44 Pinnacle Mountain Road. (Map I-11, Block 106, Parcel B)

Commissioner Rieger recused himself from the Commission during this discussion.

Connor Barnett stated that he would like to construct an elevated walkway over wetlands. There will be two bridges; one with handrails and one without. There will also be water bars to control the erosion on the trail; there is significant erosion that has created trenches in the trail. Connor stated that the walkway will be approximately 200 feet in length, which will consist of separate pieces. He will also be using pressure treated wood.

Connor Barnett stated that the construction of the walkways will not impede wildlife or water. The pieces of wood will be cut offsite to control the sawdust and other contaminations. There will also be some clearing, although only what is necessary. The pieces of the walkway will be assembled on site and held in place by rebar poles to keep it from shifting.

Commissioner Bucknam questioned if this proposed walkway would be replacing any other walkway already on the trail. Connor Barnett stated that this will be a new structure. This will help limit damage from hikers currently walking on the trails.

Commissioner Zackeo questioned if there would be any need for excavation. Connor Barnett stated that there would be minor digging for the water bars. He stated that water bars are straight pieces of lumber that lay across the trail in order to redirect the water off the trail.

Commissioner Winters questioned when this work would begin. Connor Barnett stated that he would like to begin as soon as possible. The project is expected to take most of the summer.

Commissioner Kottas questioned if the applicant would be using any equipment. Connor Barnett stated that he would be moving everything by hand to the trail.

Commissioner Bucknam made a motion that this is a regulated activity because of the construction is in and around a wetland and watercourse. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Bucknam made a motion that this is not a significant activity due to the minor nature of the actual construction since it will be laying prebuilt sections down into the wetland and buffer areas and there will not be a lot of actual digging activity. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Bucknam made a motion that the Commission grant the permit as it appears that Connor Barnett has taken a lot of care to address all of the concerns, making sure that all of the materials are as least toxic as possible; making sure that the construction activities that might cause sediment or introduce sawdust into the wetlands will take place off site; and work seems to be designed in a way to be as minimally impactful as possible. There also may be a net benefit due to the fact that hikers will now be more inclined to use the trail and stay off of wetlands vegetation. There may also be a benefit to the limiting of erosion with the water bars that are a part of this project. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rieger returned to the Commission.

V. RECEIPT OF NEW APPLICATION(s)

a. Application of the Town of Simsbury, Owner, Gerard G. Toner, Director of Culture, Parks, and Recreation, Agent, for an Inland Wetlands Permit for activities associated with dredging the Town Forest Pond on property located on Town Forest Road. (Map C-13, Block 408, Lot 10)

Mr. Beach stated that the dredging of Town Forest Pond used to be done every year. With budget constraints, this has not been done in 5-6 years. The Town would like to drain the pond and dredge it. It will be drained for a minimal amount of time. The Town would like to do this work as soon as possible.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Beach stated that the Town may receive the first PAD application in the near future. The developer for a property on West Street would like to come in for an informal presentation. This application would be for retail, office and residential.

VII. DISCUSSION

Mr. Beach stated that Commissioner Rieger has drafted a suggested page for addition to the building department brochure regarding pools. This is a guidance document in order to be helpful to homeowners.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bucknam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15.
Commissioner Winters seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commissioner Ryan Mihalic, Secretary