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CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 7:00 P.M

Main Meeting Room, Simsbury Town Hall

933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chairman Winters called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Assistant Town Planner, Brittany MacGilpin, Andrew Bade, Jason Berman, Joseph Campolieta, Donald Eaton, Charles Haldeman, Jason Levy, Margery Winters

Absent: Kyle Testerman (Alternate), Cailyn Welsh (Alternate)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 16, 2024 regular meeting

- Ms. Winters requested the following edit:
 - Creeping fox should be replaced with creeping phlox

MOTION: Mr. Levy moved to approve the January 16, 2024 minutes for the regular meeting of the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Committee with the noted revisions. Mr. Haldeman seconded the motion.

All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (7-0-0)

III. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIPT AND DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

IV. PUBLIC HEARING AND/OR ACTION ON APPLICATIONS

Application CC #24-01 of Dan Castle and Jesus Cobo, applicant and owner, for a wetland permit to construct an approximately 51' x 32' addition to the front of an existing barn within the upland review area at **298 Hopmeadow Street** (Assessor's Map G15, Block 153, Lot 015) Simsbury, CT 06089, Zone R-40 (determined potentially non-significant on January 16, 2024).

- Ms. MacGilpin provided an overview of the project, noting there will be two stockpiles surrounded by silt fencing. As recommended at the last meeting of the Commission, the applicants have included recommended native plant covers and have provided a timeline of the project.

MOTION: Commissioner Haldeman made a motion to approve **Application CC #24-01** of Dan Castle and Jesus Cabo, applicant and owner, for a wetland permit to construct an approximately 51' x 32' addition to the front of an existing barn within the upland review area at 298 Hopmeadow Street (Assessor's Map G15, Block 153, Lot 015) Simsbury, Ct 06089, Zone R-40, based upon the following findings:

47 A. The project will not adversely impact the wetland soils or watercourse.

48
49 And subject to the following conditions:

- 50
- 51 1. The project shall be developed in substantial conformance with the Improvement Location
 - 52 Survey for 298 Hopmeadow Street, dated 05-10-2022.
 - 53 2. Native plantings will be planted, and invasive plant species removed to the greatest extent
 - 54 possible in the project area.
 - 55 3. At all times during site work and until soil areas are stabilized, the applicant shall install and
 - 56 maintain erosion and sediment control measures depicted in the application or other measures
 - 57 deemed necessary by the Commission's agent to prevent erosion and sedimentation impacts
 - 58 to the watercourse.
 - 59 4. All erosion control and soil stabilization measures shall comply with the approved plans and
 - 60 the guidelines as established in the Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment
 - 61 Control, 2002, CTDEP Bulletin 34.
 - 62 5. Upon direction of the Commission's agent, erosion and sediment control measures shall be
 - 63 removed by the applicant following stabilization of the site.
 - 64 6. The Inland Wetlands Agent shall be notified at least 48 hours prior to commencement of
 - 65 activities.
 - 66

67 Mr. Levy seconded the motion.

68
69 All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (7-0-0)

70
71 **Application CC #24-03** of Rodrigo Clement (Hopmeadow Country Club), owner and applicant,
72 for a wetland permit for the replacement of paddle tennis courts and associated improvements at
73 **85 Firetown Road** (Assessor's Map E08, Block 148, Lot 001) Simsbury, CT 06070, Zone R-40
74 (determined potentially non-significant on January 16, 2024).

- 75 • Terri Hahn, Principal from LADA Land Planners, provided an overview of the project,
- 76 noting that there are two paddle courts within the upland review area that require repair.
- 77 • Ms. Hahn noted that, as requested at the previous meeting of the Commission, she
- 78 researched the lighting requirements. Because this is an evening game, tennis
- 79 associations recommend 4,000-5,000 kelvin levels. The lights will be on a timer and
- 80 only on when the courts are being utilized.
- 81 • Ms. Hahn provided an overview of the plan to address the Commission's
- 82 recommendation to provide planting along the stream edge. In response, the applicant
- 83 will utilize coco-logs to stabilize the stream bank. Native willows will be planted on top
- 84 of the coco-logs. Ms. Hahn noted that the planting of the vegetation on the coco-logs is
- 85 season specific. The goal is to complete this in March 2024 and if not, it will be
- 86 completed in March 2025. This is a pilot program, and the intent is to teach the
- 87 Hopmeadow Country Club staff to install this system throughout the golf course.
- 88 • Ms. Winters inquired if the lights are on in the summer. Ms. Hahn responded that they
- 89 are not.
- 90 • Ms. Winters inquired about the plan for mowing the area around the stream bank. Ms.
- 91 Hahn responded that the plantings will create a defined area around the bank, which will
- 92 not be mowed.

- Mr. Haldeman inquired how much of a buffer will be around the stream that will not be mowed. Ms. Hahn responded that it is dependent on the how the plantings grow, but she noted that the plantings usually grow to 3' by 5'.
- Mr. Haldeman inquired if there were other changes to the plan since the project was presented at the last meeting of the Commission. Ms. Hahn responded that there have been no other changes.
- Ms. Winters inquired if the Audubon Society had any lighting recommendations or kelvin restrictions. Mr. Clement, applicant, responded that a full light survey was completed a few years ago. As a result, the lighting was replaced with LEDs and to the lowest recommended kelvin level.

MOTION: Dr. Bade made a motion to approve **Application CC #24-03** of Rodrigo Clement (Hopmeadow Country Club), owner and applicant, for a wetland permit for the replacement of paddle tennis courts and associated improvements at 85 Firetown Road (Assessor's Map E08, Block 148, Lot 001) Simsbury, CT 06070, Zone R-40, based upon the following findings:

A. The project will not adversely impact the wetland soils or watercourse.

And subject to the following conditions:

1. The project shall be developed in substantial conformance with the map entitled, "Paddle Ball Courts at Hop Meadow Country Club" drawn by LADA, dated 1-12-2024.
2. Regulated activities to include streambank planting plan titled, "Stream Bank Enhancement Plan," page IWWA-1, dated 1/30/24.
3. Native plants will be planted, and invasive plant species removed to the greatest extent possible in the project area.
4. At all times during site work and until soil areas are stabilized, the applicant shall install and maintain erosion and sediment control measures depicted in the application or other measures deemed necessary by the Commission's agent to prevent erosion and sedimentation impacts to the watercourse.
5. All erosion control and soil stabilization measures shall comply with the approved plans and guidelines as established in the Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, 2002, CTDEP Bulletin 34.
6. Upon direction of the Commission's agent, erosion and sediment control measures shall be removed by the applicant following stabilization of the site.
7. The Inland Wetlands Agent shall be notified at least. 48 hours prior to commencement of activities.

Mr. Haldeman seconded the motion.

All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (7-0-0)

V. GENERAL COMMISSION BUSINESS

- Ms. MacGilpin provided a follow-up response to the Commission's discussion around the Atlas reporting requirements. She noted that the Inland/Wetlands Agency determined

they could not prove the gas station would have a negative impact on the wetlands but included several conditions for approval, including the quarterly reporting requirement.

- Ms. MacGilpin recommended that she bring the quarterly reports to the Commission if Town Staff identifies an issue within the reports. The Commissioners agreed with this approach.

VI. AGENT ACTIONS

- No agent actions

VII. CONSERVATION BUSINESS

- Ms. Winters noted that she will attend the Association of Wetlands Scientists Meeting on March 7, 2024. Town Staff will work on requesting additional invasive plant pamphlets.
- Ms. Winters noted that prior to meeting with the Design Review Board to discuss native planting policies, a meeting with the Zoning Chairman needs to be completed.
- Ms. Winters commented that the Commission would like to get information on the Dark Skies initiative to the Zoning Commission.
- Ms. MacGilpin noted that the next meeting of the Commission is the public hearing on native plant species.

VIII. ADJOURMENT

MOTION: Mr. Haldeman moved to adjourn.

All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (7-0-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cara Blackaby
Commission Clerk