

1 **CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES**
2 **AGENCY**

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4 **REGULAR MEETING MAY 17, 2022, 7:30 P.M. HELD VIRTUALLY**

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6 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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8 Chair Winters called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

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10 **II. ROLL CALL**

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12 **Present:** Director of Community Planning and Development, George McGregor;
13 Chair, Margery Winters; Andrew Bade, Donald Eaton, Charles Haldeman, and Jason
14 Levy

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16 **Absent:** James Berman

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18 Charles Haldeman was appointed as a seated member.

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20 **III. NEW BUSINESS**

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22 **1. Receipt of New Application and Determination of Significance**

- 23 • **CC 22-07 72 King Philips Rd. (5 Tower Run)- Application for leach field in**
24 **upland review area.**
25 • Mr. McGregor explained that the proposed leach field area is about 45 feet from
26 the regulated area, and that it probably meets the conditions for non-significant
27 activity.
28 • James Cassidy, the site insurer, stated that after conducting soil tests he found that
29 the original proposed area for the septic tank was not best for longevity, and that
30 the area for the proposed pool, which already was granted approval, was much
31 better for the septic tank.

32 MOTION: Commissioner Levy made a motion to find non-significant activity and
33 that it is moved forward to the June 7th, 2022, meeting agenda. Commissioner
34 Haldeman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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36 **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

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38 None.

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40 **V. GENERAL COMMISSION BUSINESS**

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42 **Minutes: April 19, 2022**

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44 Chair Winters stated that James Morrison was listed as absent but has resigned.

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46 **MOTION:** Commissioner Levy made a motion to accept the minutes from the April
47 19, 2022, meeting as amended. Commissioner Haldeman seconded the motion. The
48 motion carried unanimously.

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50 **VI. AGENT ACTIONS**
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52 **Application #22-04 37 Long View Drive – A/C Condenser Installation**

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- Mr. McGregor stated that it concerned two small air conditioning condensers at the base of the house, a significant distance away from the wetland watercourse.

56 **Application #22-05 12 Springbrook Lane – Garage Construction**

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- Mr. McGregor stated that it was a 420 square foot garage addition and is about 96 feet away from the watercourse brook.

59 **Application #22-06 24 Musket Trail – Deck Construction**

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- Mr. McGregor stated that it was a 320 square foot deck replacement with post holes.

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64 **VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

65 None.

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67 **VIII. CONSERVATION BUSINESS**

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69 **1. Commission Reference Guides**

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- Chair Winters stated that she sent Mr. McGregor the Agricultural Land Use Practices created by the Open Spaces Committee. and believes this is going to the Board of Selectmen.
 - Commissioner Levy wanted to add something concerning integrated pest management and how growing without any application of materials is not really realistic but the farmers who practice this use a lot less and is a best practice.
 - Commissioner Haldeman wanted to know where the results were to go under Cropland Soil Testing. Chair Winters responded that was one of the things that is

78 still being worked on. Commissioner Haldeman concluded that what Open Spaces
79 is interested in with this section is how the soil is used and how it is being
80 improved over time.

81 • **Native Plants**

- 82 • Chair Winters said that it was composed by Newtown, CT's
83 Commission.
- 84 • Commissioner Haldeman stated that he was wondering what the
85 constraints would be. Chair Winters responded that it would be
86 nothing from across the ocean, or where there are similar climates.
87 He responded that there should be clarification on what is
88 unwavering because climate will be changing in the future.
- 89 • Commissioner Levy stated that there should be an exemption for
90 fruit trees unless they are an invasive species.
- 91 • Mr. McGregor suggested taking out the word "enforcement," if
92 this is going to be a guideline for residents.
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94 • **Mowing Practices**

- 95 • Chair Winters stated that Parks and Rec mows the open spaces
96 when they have people available to mow them, however with the
97 wild areas they are dependent on what they are being managed for,
98 pollinators or grassland birds. Some of the recommendations for
99 grassland birds is that you need land the shape and size of a field to
100 be effective and those should not be mowed during the breeding
101 season, but they should be mowed late August. When you mow in
102 late August for pollinators it tends to knock off all of the seed
103 heads and is conducive for the grass but not for the growth of
104 forbs, the pollinator plants.
- 105 • Chair Winters stated that there needs to be identification of which
106 parcels of property in town would be good for which intention.
107 Some of the fields are mowed annually which is unnecessary for
108 the pollinator meadows. You can mow every other year or every
109 third year, or even one half one year and the other half the next
110 year.
- 111 • Commissioner Haldeman stated that it comes down to who will be
112 figuring out those distinctions and who will evaluate if it is
113 effective. Chair Winters responded that it would have to be a
114 subgroup.

115 **2. Other Topics**

- 116 • Chair Winters inquired to the Commission which invasive species they came up
117 with for a list compilation

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- Commissioner Levy responded with garlic mustard. Commissioner Haldeman responded with Japanese knotweed. Chair Winters stated Japanese barberry and burning bush, mumflordolls, and norman bittersweets. Commissioner Eaton stated Russian olives.
 - Commissioner Levy stated that next year he wanted to promote “No Mow May” for next year.
 - Commissioner Haldeman commented that on the Stratton Brook Trail he noticed that both sides were cleared by the aquarion water site, and one side is now being overrun by poison ivy and garlic mustard and he inquired about what the remediation plan was and who is responsible for cleaning it up. Chair Winters asked Mr. McGregor to find out those answers.
 - There was also a focus on continuing to provide information on prevention of bear habituation to humans.

132 **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

133 **MOTION:** Commissioner Levy made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Haldeman
134 seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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136 The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

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138 Respectfully Submitted,

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140 Amanda Blaze
141 Commission Clerk

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