



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

225 Center Road - Easton, Connecticut 06612

MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MARCH 22, 2022 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Dori Wollen, Chair, Cathy Alfandre, Maria Corti, Dave Logie, Steve Montgomery, Karin Niesyn

ABSENT: Sarah Cwikla, Elliot Leonard

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Joe Calzone

Chair Dori Wollen called the meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m.

1.) SITE WALK:

2.) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. **V#05-143**, Notice of Violation at 740 Stepney Road--Neunteufel and VonKuthy, issued 7/5/05 At the February 22 meeting, Chair Wollen read a memo from the WEO, Mark DeLieto regarding his follow up with Mr. Neunteufel. He plans to meet with Mr. Neunteufel again. As of this meeting there is no further update.

B. Cease and Desist Order for property at 740 Stepney Road--Neunteufel and VonKuthy, issued 7/20/05.

C. **V#11-158**, Notice of Violation at 580 Sport Hill Road--Austin Ganim, issued 5/24/11. WEO and Attorney Taylor are going to set up a date to visit the property this month.

D. **V#21-585** Activities within 200 feet of a 3-acre pond- Lorraine McLaughlin, 105 Norton Road, issued 3/24/2021. Chair Wollen stated she has been in contact with Rich McLaughlin and he plans to appear at the next meeting (April 12th, 2022).

E. **V#21-584** Notice of Violation at 1074 Black Rock Road- Trevor A. Smith, issued 3/9/2021, Cease and Desist order. Staff was directed to send a second violation letter, (sent on April 9, 2021). Chair Wollen noted that this address had been discussed at a recent P&Z meeting. The WEO submitted a memo detailing the history of this violation and the dispute between Mr. Smith and his neighbor. There were several questions as to where the fill was deposited. Staff was directed to find a map of 1074 Black Rock Road. Cathy Alfandre asked if a site walk was warranted. The Chair stated that the WEO should go to the property first.

F. Warning re; activities within 100 feet of wetlands- David Harding 570 Morehouse Road, Easton CT, issued May 17, 2021

G. **V#21-592** Activities within 100 feet of wetlands-David Harding, 570 Morehouse Road, Easton CT, issued August 12, 2021. There has been no further contact from Mr. Harding. Chair Wollen wrote a letter to Mr. Harding which was delivered by a Marshall on December 2nd, 2021.

The Commission discussed Mr. Harding's lack of response and whether to start the fine process. Chair Wollen will write to Mr. Harding and give him one more chance and a month to respond. H. V#21-593 Activities within 100 feet of wetlands- John Stanczyk, 582 Morehouse Road, Easton CT, issued August 13, 2021. The homeowner's application #21-597 was approved but the remediation work has not been completed. Several Commissioners noted that as of 3.8.2022 the silt fence is in disrepair and no action has been taken to remediate. Staff was directed to call Mark Ochman. Mr. Ochman did speak to the homeowners who apparently had an arrangement with their neighbor David Harding (See item G V#21-592 above) to do the remediation. They have been trying to contact Mr. Harding to no avail.

I.) V#22-604, Trees cut down within Conservation Easement- Eleanor and Dane Lynn, 2 Sierra Lane, Easton CT, issued January 26, 2022. Mr. Lynn appeared at the meeting of February 8, 2022 to address this violation. He apologized for not filing an application to cut trees in the conservation easement. He presented photographs of fallen and broken trees on various parts of his property. Chair Wollen requested that he file an after-the-fact application. Staff spoke to Mr. Lynn who will submit an application, plans and the fee by the next meeting on April 12, 2022.

3.) **NEW BUSINESS:** The Chair recognized Joe Calzone of 29 Tranquility Drive who asked to address the Commission about his pond which he asserts has been polluted by runoff from the driveway at 59 Tranquility. The Chair questioned if the runoff is any clearer after grass was planted at #59. Mr. Calzone said it is but not entirely clear. The Commission directed the WEO to inspect and get recommendations.

4.) **REVIEW FOR REPORT TO PLANNING AND ZONING:**

5.) **CONSERVATION PROJECTS:**

6.) **OPEN - SPACE ISSUES:** There was a question raised about the bags left behind by dog walkers. The problems with receptacles to hold bags was discussed. A potential alternative is to place a receptacle similar to one at the dog park and have a carting company pick up the dog waste.

7.) **WEO COMMUNICATIONS:**

8.) **CORRESPONDENCE:**

9.) **MISCELLANEOUS:** Chair Wollen reported to the Commission that the BOF has approved the budget request for the next fiscal year.

Chair Wollen discussed the proposed Planning and Zoning Fine process. She advised that in her opinion it would be beneficial to make P&Z aware of the Inland Wetlands Fine Ordinance. The Affordable Housing Plan was discussed. Chair Wollen stated that the Wetlands Commission was not represented on the Affordable Housing Committee, Cathy Alfandre disagreed and said that Phil Doremus' presence on this committee assured that the wetlands would be considered in any proposal.

Chair Wollen read a letter from June Logie asking to have the Commission to review the Affordable Housing plan.

Chair Wollen discussed correspondence with the Newtown Conservation Commission regarding Native Planting Ordinance in other towns. A discussion ensued regarding adopting a policy to plant only native species on municipal properties.

10.) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING:**

MOTION: Cathy Alfandre moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Steve Montgomery noted a correction needed to be made regarding his attendance as he was present via ZOOM. He seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. **VOTE:** The minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously as amended.

11). ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Montgomery and seconded by Cathy Alfandre. **VOTE:** Approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Submitted by Frances M. Daly
Secretary, Easton Conservation Commission