



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

225 Center Road - Easton, Connecticut 06612
Phone 203-268-6291 Fax 203-268-4928

MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION EASTON TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM A Tuesday September 11th, 2018 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Dori Wollen, Chair; Catherine Alfandre, Steve Corti, Steven Montgomery, Steve Hume, Vivian Hardison, Elliot Leonard, Sarah Cwikla

ABSENT: None

1. Chair Dori Wollen called meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **INLAND/WETLAND APPLICATIONS: I/W #18-539 – 691 Morehouse Road – Easton Public Library** – Add addition where current patio is located – received 7/18/18 + 65 days = 9/21/18. Chair Wollen advised WEO Phil Doremus had been notified the Library Building Committee is withdrawing the current plan and will submit a revision. Cathy Alfandre moved that the application be denied without prejudice pending receipt of a request to extend the application period by the applicant, seconded by Steve Corti. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
I/W #18-540-60 Maple Road- Mary Jean Corti-construct a 60'x100' Pole Barn- Received 8/28/18 + 65 days=11/1/18. Mary Jean Corti appeared on her own behalf. Members of the Commission had walked the site. Steve Hume asked if the creek was an intermittent watercourse. Ms. Corti replied it was. She was asked about the construction process. The Cortis stated that while they would have preferred to place the barn in a location away from the wetlands, they were denied a variance by Planning and Zoning. Cathy Alfandre asked if it was necessary to have the second door in the building nearest the wetlands. Ms. Corti replied that the door was on the eastern side of the building. Chair Wollen asked Ms. Corti to note the correct location of the door on the map and sign and date the map. Elliot Leonard moved to approve **with standard stipulations** and the location of the second door as noted on the map, seconded by Vivian Hardison. Steve Corti abstained. Motion approved with 6 in favor (Wollen, Alfandre, Hume, Hardison, Leonard, Cwikla) and one abstention (Corti).
I/W # 18-541-5 Pond Road-Erin M. Lynch Add one story addition. Received 8/28/18 + 65 days=11/1/18. Kevin Lynch appeared on his wife's behalf. Members of the Commission had walked the site. Ms. Wollen noted that the applicants will need to move some large rhododendrons. Elliot Leonard said it was a basic application. Steve Hume moved to approve **with standard stipulations**. Vivian Hardison seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.
I/W #18-542-173 North Street-Kevin Wade – Mr. Wade had not appeared, although his soil scientist was present. The Commission decided to wait for Mr. Wade to arrive.
V#16-175 Mr. Popescu appeared in response to a letter sent by Chair Wollen on July 11th, 2018. Chair Wollen stated that she had driven by the property earlier this evening and noted that the grass clippings had been removed from the creek. Mr. Popescu replied that when he had a kid mow the grass, the kid thought the creek, being dry at the time, was just a ditch and so dumped the clippings there. Mr. Popescu stated that he had cleaned up all the clippings. He

asked for clarification on the size of the rocks required by the Commission to delineate the conservation easement area. He showed a piece of carry-on luggage and asked if that size would be a large enough rock. He stated that the WEO had approved the rocks he had placed. When various commissioners replied his example was not large enough, he asked how much a rock that size would weigh. Steve Corti estimated it would be approximately 200 pounds. Mr. Popescu asked why the Commission required him to place the rocks. Cathy Alfandre stated it was to prevent the intrusion of machinery and people into the conservation easement area. Steve Hume and Elliot Leonard stated the Commission would need to speak to the WEO regarding the size of boulders/rocks. Steve Corti noted that Mr. Popescu had a valid point that the Commission needs to create clear standards as to how large a rock is required to mark a boundary. Steve Hume advised Mr. Popescu to not take any action until the Commissioners had addressed this issue with the WEO.

I/W #18-542-173 North Street-Kevin Wade – create a pollinator garden. Mr. Wade appeared on his behalf. He presented a letter from Larry Edwards regarding the pipe under the existing driveway which confirmed that the pipe would be replaced in its entirety. He was accompanied by James M. McManus, Certified Soil Scientist, who presented his report on the soil in the proposed pond construction site in the wetlands. Mr. McManus stated that he visited the site in August, and noted the swamp wetlands on the site, as well as the “good” wetlands to the south side of the property. He stated that while there would be impact on the swamp wetlands during the construction of the ponds, he felt the functionality of the ponds would offset any loss of swampy wetlands. Mr. McManus stated that it was his recommendation that the area around the ponds be planted with indigenous trees, shrubs and marsh plants. He feels the creation of the ponds will provide a recreational opportunity for the property owners while having no impact on the wetlands downstream. He recommended placing the spillway at the location where the outlet is discharging now. Cathy Alfandre asked if there was an official statement as to Mr. McManus’ opinion in his report. Steve Corti asked who would monitor the construction on the property. Mr. Wade provided new drawings that had been revised by Mr. Edwards on September 10th. 2018. Chair Dori Wollen stated that she needed to address to the Commission regarding this application. She stated that the Town Attorney advised if Mr. Wade submitted a report from his soil scientist, and the report was satisfactory, the Commission could accept his application for a pollinator garden as an **amendment** to his earlier application **#I/W 18-537**, which had been denied “without prejudice” at the meeting of July 24th, 2018, for which Mr. Wade has filed an appeal. Ms. Wollen also stated that she had been advised if Mr. Wade chooses to withdraw his appeal, then the Commission may proceed with considering his application. Mr. McManus stated that there should be no further tree removal on the property. Mr. Wade stated that the idea of the pollinator garden had come from his attorney, and that he was willing to drop that idea. Questions were raised about the construction sequence, expected timetable, and a plan to monitor the construction, as Mr. Wade plans to be his own contractor. Mr. Wade was requested to have Larry Edwards provide a report showing the construction sequence, timetable, monitoring plan by a credentialed inspector and a copy of the final plan by Friday, September 21st in order for the Commission to be able to vote on the amended application at the next meeting, Tuesday, September 25th 2018.

3. **AS OF RIGHT DETERMINATION REQUESTS** - none
4. **SITE WALKS:**
5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. V#05-143, Notice of Violation at 740 Stepney Road--Neunteufel and VonKuthy, issued 7/5/05
- B. Cease and Desist Order for property at 740 Stepney Road--Neunteufel and VonKuthy, issued 7/20/05
- C. V#08-153, Notice of Violation at 68 Sport Hill Parkway--Michael Newman, issued 12/1/08
- D. Cease and Remediate order for 68 Sport Hill Parkway--Michael Newman, issued 4/21/09
- E. V#11-158, Notice of Violation at 580 Sport Hill Road--Austin Ganim, issued 5/24/11
- F. Amended Wetlands Permit #10-389, 288 Maple Road—4-lot subdivision, property owner: Vincenzo Toscano.
- G. V#15-170, Notice of Violation at 80 Redding Road—Arvid A. Brandstrom, issued 10/21/15
- H. V#16-175, Notice of Violation at 90 Honeysuckle Hill Lane—Wanda M. Popescu, issued 7/5/16. Mr. Popescu attended this meeting; see report above
- I. V#16-519 –355 Sport Hill Road - Sherwood Farm, issued 12/29/16
- J. Warning: 5 Wimbledon Lane – Owner Christian Bujdud – Dori Wollen sent a letter to the homeowner.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

7. REVIEW FOR REPORT TO PLANNING AND ZONING:

8. CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Dori Wollen raised the issue of the Paine Open House. She stated that some of the Commissioners will not be available that day, and she had received no interest in participating from the Aspetuck Land trust, or from Easton Farmers. The general consensus was to postpone the open house until spring. She also received a report from Kristen Beattie about the bobcat project. There are 28 bobcat sites in her project area and 22 are active. She also received a report from Caitlin Garvey on the Green Corridor and will e-mail to the Commissioners.

9. OPEN-SPACE ISSUES:

10. WEO COMMUNICATIONS: ongoing

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

12. MISCELLANEOUS: memo regarding records retention. Secretary Frances Daly reported that there were nearly 200 cd's or cassette tapes of regular meetings from 2015 back to 1999 which can be destroyed if state approves. She reported that Town Clerk Christine Halloran had suggested she be appointed by the commission as record retention officer for the Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands agency. There was a discussion about how far back to keep the audio files. Steve Corti moved to destroy all audio files that are more than one year old, except public hearings on Saddle Ridge, and any under appeal, at the end of each fiscal year upon approval from the State. Steve Hume seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Vivian Hardison moved that the Secretary, Easton Conservation Commission be appointed "Records Retention Officer", Steve Corti seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

13. OPEN SPACE:

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING: A motion to approve the minutes of July 24th, 2018 was made by Vivian Hardison and seconded by Cathy Alfandre. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. A motion to approve the minutes of August 28th, 2018 was made by Vivian Hardison and seconded by Steve Hume. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. was made by Cathy Alfandre and seconded by Steve Corti, all in favor.

FILED BY Frances M. Daly
Secretary, Easton Conservation Commission