



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

225 Center Road - Easton, Connecticut 06612

**MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM "A"
March 28, 2023 7:30 p.m.**

PRESENT IN PERSON: Dori Wollen, Chair, Cathy Alfandre, Steve Montgomery, Karin Niesyn, Dave Logie, Maria Corti, Brandon Harvey, Anthony Battaglia

ABSENT: Sarah Cwikla

PUBLIC PRESENT: Robert Letskus, Mark Ochman, Mr. and Mrs. Blonstein

Chair Dori Wollen called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

1.) INLAND WETLAND APPLICATIONS:

#23- 632 – 507 Judd Road, Supreme Milford LLC, Robert Letskus - install new footing drain
Received 03/14/2023 + 65 days = 5/18/2023

Applicant was present to answer any questions from the Commission. Commission members walked the site. Steve Montgomery made a motion to approve the application as an after the fact application subject to paying the after the fact fee, seconded by Cathy Alfandre. Motion approved unanimously.

#23-633 – 771 Westport Road, Jessica Blonstein – construct a 24'x24' accessory structure (garage) in the backyard and extend driveway to service the structure. Received: 03/14/2023 + 65 = 5/18/2023

Applicant was present to answer any questions. The garage will be detached, under 600 SF therefore not requiring footings. It will be placed on a concrete slab. The Commission members walked the site. Karin Niesyn made a motion to approve the application with standard stipulations as well as additional silt fencing, seconded by Anthony Battaglia. Motion carried.

#23-634, 5 Ferndale Drive, John Schlesinger & Jessica Jablon, Received 3/28/2023 + 65 days = 6/01/2023, replace failing septic system. Mark Ochman was present on behalf of the homeowner. He will stake the site for the Commission to inspect.

#23-635, 570 Morehouse Road, David Harding – As of Right Determination – received 3/28/2023 + 65 days = 6/1/23 - application incomplete; applicant was not present and his email re the application was read into the records. Dori Wollen will relay questions to the applicant and request his attendance for the next meeting.

#23-636. 440 Sport Hill Road, Marsel Huribal, after the fact application – clean up and grade back of the property, remove and replace contaminated fill with new dirt and gravel; test and stabilize the area. Received 2/28/23 + 65 = 5/4/23

Applicant was not present; the Commission had walked the site. Applicant has paid the violation fee; the Commission still has questions regarding the site. Chair Dori Wollen will send an email to the owner to relay the Commission members ongoing concerns.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. **V#21-584** Notice of Violation at 1074 Black Rock Road- Trevor A. Smith (3/14/) was present to discuss the outstanding violation. He presented a soil scientist report for a part of his property only, however, this report does not deal with the area in question, i.e. the area subject to the violation. The Commission requested Mr. Smith obtain a map that shows the wetlands including the setback on his entire property. Mr. Smith agreed to have a map showing the wetlands and setback lines. – no new information

B... **V#23-632** 358 Westport Road, Violation was issued in error and will be reversed. Cathy Alfandre made a motion to revoke the violation at 358 Westport Road, seconded by Karen Niesyn and motion carried..

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

C. **V#21-592** Activities within 100 feet of wetlands-David Harding, 570 Morehouse Road, Easton CT, issued August 12, 2021. Chair Wollen wrote to Mr. Harding on June 9th, 2022 levying a \$1000 fine without any response. On 10/7/22 the First Selectman advised staff that Peter Howard has been appointed as Hearing Officer and directed staff to work with his Assistant to initiate legal proceedings due to non-compliance pursuant to Chapter 325 of the Town Code. The hearing was held on December 9, 2022. During this hearing Mr. Harding asserted he had obtained a farm designation for his property. His friend and neighbor, Dan Phillips, who also appeared, said Mr. Harding's property was covered by the Stanczyk's permit for regulated activities. Mr. Harding was expected to appear at this meeting with an As of Right Determination request and also provide information regarding the alleged activities at the rear of his property. Mr. Harding has not submitted any application. Mr. Howard sent Mr. Harding a follow up letter on 1/6/23. As of tonight, 2/14/23, no word from Mr. Harding and the case will be turned over to outside counsel for further handling. - 3/28/23 – As of Right Determination request received – see above

E.) **V#23-630** – Cease and Desist Order - Activities within 100 feet of wetlands – Filipe Monteiro, 29 Bibbins Road - Mr. Monteiro failed to appear at tonight's meeting. Commissioners, WEO and DPW Director all visited the site and confirmed that too much fill was brought in and spread up to the existing silt fence. At places the fill was 5' high. . Upon revisiting the Commission's approval from 9/27/22, we confirmed that Mr. Monteiro followed our approval, i.e. filling to the silt fence. Further, we confirmed that our approval was in error, as we never let applicants to fill all the way to the wetland line. Accordingly, Mr. Monteiro will be instructed to pull back the fill to the original silt fence line as shown on map dated 9/27/22. Further, the silt fence needs to be repaired at several places.

2/28/23: Mr. Monteiro was present at tonight's meeting explaining his activities that resulted in the current cease and desist order. He was instructed to remove all the fill from the regulated area back to the original silt fence line as shown on map 10/14/19, amended and initialed by the applicant on 9/27/22. Repair the existing silt fence and install additional silt fence at the original line. WEO must be notified when work is to start. – 3/28/23 : Dori Wollen read an email from Mark DeLieto regarding 29 Bibbins Road. The property has been regraded and the fill was pushed back to where instructed. Silt fencing has been repaired in various locations.

3. **NEW BUSINESS .**
4. **REVIEW FOR REPORT TO PLANNING AND ZONING –none**
5. **CONSERVATION PROJECTS - Morehouse Open Space**
6. **OPEN SPACE ISSUES - none**
7. **WEO COMMUNICATIONS: - 29 Bibbins Road - see above**

8. CORRESPONDENCE

9.) MISCELLANEOUS

10). APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING:

MOTION: Steve Montgomery moved and Dave Logie seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 14, 2023. **VOTE:** The minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

11). ADJOURNMENT: Karin Niesyn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve Montgomery. **VOTE:** Approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m. by Chair Dori Wollen
Submitted by Kiersten Ring