

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY / CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES: January 18, 2023

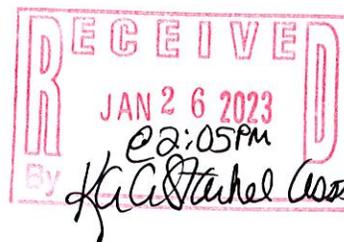
MEMBERS PRESENT: Blondin John, Cote Paul, Jennings Arthur, Katzbek Dan, Kelly Barbara, Macdonald James, Muller Richard, Phillips John, and Reed Adam

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Durette Joe

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Folger, Sr. Environmental Planner
Tersee Flores, Recording Secretary

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT: Steven King Jr., Deputy Mayor



Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chairperson Kelly asked for public comment for items that were not on agenda. No public comment.

PERMIT EXTENSIONS: None

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS:

Jeff Folger provided the Commissioners with info on the upcoming webinar sponsored by the CT Bar Association. He mentioned one of the sections pertains to Wetland Law.

Chairperson Kelly asked if they need to register. Mr. Folger informed all Commissioners if anyone is interested to reach out to him and he will get them registered.

Chairperson Kelly shared information regarding new guidelines for storm water and corrosion sediment control. She mentioned she will provide Jeff Folger with a link to share with the Commissioners.

Mr. Folger mentioned Planning and Zoning is drafting an update to the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and asked if the Commission as a whole would be willing to answer the five questions provided. He requested if it can be discussed at the first meeting in February.

BONDS: None

MINUTES: 01-04-23. Commissioner Blondin motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Jennings second the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Senior Environmental Planner Jeff Folger mentioned there are three Eagle Scout projects in the pipeline. He is waiting on the submittal proposals including improvements to the slope on the path behind Town Hall, building some steps and making it friendlier for individuals to walk. In addition, they are helping with the informational signage on the same trail highlighting the invasive plants that were found on the property. There is also a Scout who is going to be working with the Library to assist with a story trail.

Chairperson Kelly and Commissioner Blondin asked, and made questions

WETLAND OFFICER:

Mr. Folger reviewed update for Pleasant Valley School providing them with pictures of the basin with the flocculants applied to it.

Commissioner Phillips asked, and made questions regarding the wetland area.

Mr. Folger also mentioned there is a whole host of under drains along the eastern edge of the site that is taking all the ground water. The initial plan is bringing it to the basin which is what it's currently doing. He and the Town Engineer will be meeting with the design team to discuss taking the under drains and diverting them out to Long Hill Road to the storm system. The original plan was to have the detention basin drain down within 3 to 4 days to avoid mosquitos hatching within the basin itself.

Chairperson Kelly and Commissioners asked, and made questions regarding the need provide cover over the soil. Additional tackifier and mulch is needed to cover the soil surface to minimize the detachment of fine silts during a rainstorm.

Council Liaison Steven King Jr. asked, and made questions regarding the project and the discussion made on record.

Chairperson Kelly responded that the plans said they will adhere to the CT guidelines for soil erosion and sediment control, the fundamental principle there is not just catching soil particles that have been eroded and moved, it is keeping that soil in place. They had bare soil exposed on that site for months. The soil should have been covered with tackifier and mulch to keep the soil in place to lessen the need for using flocculants to remove the fine particles.

Commissioner Phillips mentioned the only reason the flocculants was necessary is because they failed to do the preventive measures first.

Commissioner Katzbek, Phillips, Jennings, and Muller asked, and made questions regarding the bond process assigned to the projects. Chairperson Kelly and Commissioner Jennings discussed requiring bonding on town projects. Mr. Folger mentioned we only accept cash bonds not insurance bonds.

Phillips talked about giving very close scrutiny to any change request as to whether it's an actual change requirement or a failure to follow the original requirement.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Receive comments on the draft Inland Wetland Regulations.

Commissioner Reed read the legal notice as posted in the Journal Inquirer

Chairperson Kelly, Commissioners Jennings and, Muller asked and made questions pertaining to the statues, permits, any responses from the State and any legal advice.

Mr. Folger mentioned their comments were incorporated into the regulations. He discussed that there was a change in state statues, where an application has both a Wetland, Planning and Zoning permit approval. He mentioned typically Wetland renders their approval first by state statue. He added the starting time for the Wetland permit will be concurrent with the starting time of the Planning and Zoning permit. If we approve a permit 30 days before Planning and Zoning approves their site plan, then the beginning of our permit will switch as far as the five-year duration, so they are both moving forward concurrently.

There was no public comment.

Motion to: close the public hearing on the discussion on regulations changes.

Was made by: Commissioner Phillips

Second by: Commissioner Jennings

Motion carried.

Vote: unanimous

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on the Cross-Town Trail location and design.

Mr. Folger mentioned there were no representatives from the Consultant Engineers. He reported that the Park and Recreational Department and the Walk & Wheelway Committee came up with a location for a cross-town trail going from Pleasant Valley Road to Niederwerfer Road and it's going to be one pathway ideally 10 ft. wide and paved. It will follow the Eversource power line right-of-way (ROW). There will be areas where the ROW doesn't incorporate a hardened

surface and there will be some wetland disturbances as well. The Consultant wanted to have an informal discussion to determine permitting a cross-town trail.

Commissioner's Jennings, Durette asked and made questions regarding the starting process.

OLD BUSINESS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to: adjourn at 7:37 pm

Was made by: Commissioner Blondin

Second by: Commissioner Jennings

The motion carried.

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted:

Tersee Flores
Recording Secretary