

Conservation Commission – March 21, 2024 hybrid Meeting

Members present were Dr. John Schreiber, Co-Chair, Mr. Freddy Friedman, Co-Chair, Dr. Doug Hyde & Mrs. Nanci Worthington. Others present were Mr. Robert Akroyd, Mr. Geoffrey Maynard, Mr. Matthew Puntin, Mrs. Kristin Hoffman, Mr. Allen Isaacson, Mr. Evan Hardcastle, Ms. Erin Rodgers, and Mr. David Cameron.

Meeting was called to order at 5 PM.

Meeting minutes of February 15th & February 22nd, 2024 were accepted as amended.

Town of New Marlborough: Present for this continued hearing was representative, Ms. Erin Rodgers, Trout Unlimited. Applicant submitted a NOI for the purpose of riverbank stabilization. Property location is 1300 Hartsville Mill River Rd. Ms. Rodgers mentioned that there has been a lot of erosion occurring, and the goal of this project is to produce the increase in-stream habitat for brook trout and wood turtles, and replant the riparian buffer, methods include installing a toe-wood revetment, then resloping the bank at a 3:1 slope using coir rolls. Ms. Rodgers also mentioned that working on obtaining grants to fund this project. The Commission and Ms. Rodgers reviewed DEP comments that include: Chapter 91 license may be required and notification from NHESP has been issued. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to continue this hearing until April 18th meeting.

Maynard Hearing: Present for this continued hearing was Mr. Matthew Puntin, SK Design Group, Inc. Property location is New Marlborough Hill Rd. Applicant submitted a NOI for the purpose of construction of a single-family house, driveway, septic system & well. Mr. Puntin submitted a revised plan per DEP & the Commission comments from the previous meeting, which include 8 trees, 20 shrubs for planting. Mr. Puntin mentioned that there will be no work in the resource area – 25 feet away and will use erosion control around the whole project. Dr. Schreiber inquired if it is possible to shrink/move project work more than 25 feet. Mr. Puntin mentioned that they moved the project an additional 10 feet away. Mr. Hardcastle, contractor mentioned that there will be no stock piling on site and will be trucking in supplies as needed. The Commission continued to be concerned that the size of the house on such a small envelope and construction so close to resource areas could negatively affect them.

After discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to continue this hearing until April 18th meeting. Dr. Schreiber introduced Ms. Kristin Hoffman who is interested in joining the Commission.

Fainer Hearing: No one was present for this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to continue this hearing.

Mr. David Cameron, Consultant was present to discuss the violation letter that was sent out for 0 Canaan Southfield Rd. Mr. Cameron mentioned that Dr. Schreiber and he viewed the site

from the road and walk down the road, but it is hard to see if there is any violations from a distance. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to send another letter to the property owners recommending filing a RDA. The consultant Mr. Cameron agreed to assist in the drafting of a letter outlining the various issues for the owners.

Diamond Hearing: Present for this was representative, Mr. Robert Akroyd, Greylock Design Associates. Property location is at 97 Corser Hill Rd. Applicant submitted a NOI for the purpose of construction of a 16' by 32' in ground fiberglass pool and a 32' by 44' bluestone pool terrace, which equals approximately 1,408 square feet. Mr. Akroyd mentioned that it has been determination that there is an intermittent stream and erosion control will be in place with coir silt fence. No additional plantings were initially planned. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to close this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve this application with the following condition: plant 10 native shrubs.

Old Business:

The Commission received a complaint that there was erosion at 0 Aberdeen, the site of a NOI and house construction. The Commission site visited from the road and did not enter the property. From the road, it did not appear that any silt fence or erosion controls were in place as per the approved NOI permit. Front yard bare dirt erosion was observed, as was driveway washout across the road in close proximity to wetlands. Dr. Schreiber has reached out to the firm who represented the property and they stated silt fence was installed originally and perhaps someone removed it. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to send an enforcement order.

New Business:

The Commission has received a special permit for – 529 Hayes Hill Rd – to add to a day care center. The Commission will request to site visit the site before making any determinations.

Mrs. Worthington mentioned that she has scheduled a public informational meeting for April 20th at 2PM at the New Marlborough Meeting House to discuss working with riparian habitat on a small scale for property management and protection; there will be 2 members of the Housatonic Valley and Ms. Erin Rodgers from Trout Unlimited. Mrs. Worthington would like the other members to handle the publication of the informational meeting.

Next regular meeting will be April 18, 2024 at 4PM.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien
Secretary

ADDENDUM: An email from the wetlands engineer for O Aberdeen received on Friday morning stated that his site visit to the property the day before showed that the appropriate silt barriers were in still in place as per permit. Thus, no enforcement order was sent for O Aberdeen and an email was drafted instead to the owner suggesting that front yard and driveway erosion might enter wetlands in the near future and that a silt barrier would prevent this problem.