

Conservation Commission – January 18, 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. Howard Nahmias, Mr. Robert Akroyd, and Ms. Martha Bryan.

Meeting was called to order at 5 PM.

Meeting minutes of December 20, 2023 were accepted as amended.

Cooper – certificate of compliance: Mr. Michael Schafer, Huntley Associates, P.C. Mr. Schafer emailed a request to continue until February 15th meeting, due to all the snow on the ground. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the request.

Nahmias Hearing: Present for this hearing was property owner, Mr. Howard Nahmias. Property location is at 50 Downs Rd. Applicant submitted a RDA for the purpose of removal of a dead ash tree. Mr. Nahmias mentioned that the tree is large and at the river front area, hanging over his property. Mr. Nahmias also mentioned that some limbs have been falling into the lake. Dr. Hyde, who site visited the property mentioned that there is not a lot of room on the property for replanting but that anywhere in the buffer zone would suffice. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to close this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve this application as a negative #3 determination with the following conditions: leave tree stump in place, roots not be disturbed, replace with one native tree in the buffer zone 8-10 feet in size.

Diamond Hearing: Present for this hearing was representative, Mr. Robert Akroyd, Greylock Design Associates. Property location is at 97 Corser Hill Rd. Applicant submitted a RDA 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 there is a drainage ditch or intermittent stream on the south side of the property that does not show up on GIS. Dr. Schreiber mentioned that while at the site visit they noticed water was flowing despite very low temperatures. The Commission inquired if it is possible to move the project out of jurisdictional areas more than 100 feet from the intermittent stream. Mr. Akroyd request to continue to the February 15th meeting, so he can speak with his clients. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to continue this hearing until February 15th.

New Business: Dr. Schreiber mentioned that a complaint was received from an environmental engineer regarding 0 Canaan Southfield Rd. The complaint stated that the property owners were told that the property contained wetlands after which they clear cut more than one acre without permits. The Commission checked GIS, which did not show wetlands however, wetlands are visible from the road adjacent to tree cutting. Mr. Mike Parsons the engineer involved shared a map with the commission showing wetland and he saw that are next to clear cutting and vegetation removal. Dr. Schreiber checked with the Building Inspector who stated

that no building permit have been applied for as of yet. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and so voted to send a violation letter to the property owners that unpermitted clearing of vegetation and clear cutting trees in potential jurisdictional areas can be observed from the Canaan Southfield Rd.

Dr. Schreiber mentioned that Town Council has reviewed the contract for an agent Mr. Cameron and sees no issues with the Commission signing the contract. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and so voted for the co-chairs to sign the contract.

Mrs. Worthington mentioned that the Commission should sponsor a public training in the spring/summer regarding rivers in town. The Commission so voted to do so.

Old Business:

The Commission will reach out to Mr. Bryan Siter, Foresight Land Services to see how if he is progressing on filings for 171, 187, 201 & 839 Stratford Rd, each property owner received a violation letter.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2024 at 5PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien
Secretary