

## Conservation Commission – December 20, 2023 hybrid Meeting

Members present were Dr. John Schreiber, Co-Chair, Dr. Doug Hyde & Mrs. Nanci Worthington. Others present were Mr. Bryan Siter, Ms. Emily Stockman, Mr. Frederick Cross, Mr. Allen Isaacson, Mr. & Mrs. Damian VanDenberg, Mr. Todd Wilkinson, Mr. Wayne Wilkinson, Mr. Al Thorpe and Mr. Michael Schafer.

Meeting was called to order at 5 PM.

Meeting minutes of November 16, 2023 were accepted as amended.

Cooper – certificate of compliance: Present was Mr. Michael Schafer, Huntley Associates, P.C. Mr. Schafer requested to continue until January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the request.

Cross Hearing: Present for this hearing was representative, Mr. Al Thorpe, Accord Engineering Surveying LLC., property owner Mr. Frederick Cross, contractors Mr. Wayne Wilkinson & Mr. Todd Wilkinson. Property location is 212 Lake Rd. Applicant submitted a RDA for the purpose of demolition existing retaining wood and rubble wall and replacement with stone strong systems modular per-cast blocks. Mr. Thorpe mentioned that portions of the wall are failing, and would like to do work as soon as weather permits. Mr. Thorpe also mentioned that the slope is stable and construction work will occur behind the existing wall to avoid disturbed, and straw wattle will be in place before will begin, and work should be done within a few days. Mr. Wilkinson mentioned that he would prefer to use hay bales instead of straw wattle. 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: silt fence & straw hay bales installed prior to beginning of work, 2 large trees abutting work area will not be disturbed, site visit at the end of construction.

Lawrence Hearing: Present for this hearing was property owner, Mr. Stuart Lawrence. Property location is 123 Canaan Valley Rd.. Applicant submitted a RDA for 2 large white pine trees, which are hanging over the house and garage. Mr. Lawrence mentioned that the Town Tree Warden has given permission for the trees to be removed. Dr. Hyde stated that the trees need to come down. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and so voted to close this hearing. A motion was made, and seconded and so voted to approve this application as a negative #3 determination with the following conditions: native replanting tree or shrubs 1 to 1 within 200 foot of river, no removal of roots and stumps.

Mir Hearing: Present for this hearing was representative, Mr. Bryan Siter, Foresight Land Services Inc. Property location is 19/23 East Hill Rd. Applicate submitted a RDA for foundation drainpipe. Mr. Siter mentioned that the existing pipe discharge goes on to abutters property and a stream, the plan is to reroute the pipe to the south of the property, which should improve erosion control, pipe will be 4 inches wide and water will still run down the hill.

Abutter Mr. Damian Van Denburg is concerned about the water that is coming onto his property, and where will the water go after being rerouted. Mrs. Worthington mentioned that while at a site visit at the Van Denburg's the water had turned into ice, which was difficult to walk on and a change needs to happen soon. After discussion, 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 with the following conditions: install silt socks/fence with hay bales.

Van Denburg Hearing: Property owners, Mr. & Mrs. Van Denburg were present. Applicant submitted a RDA for removing a tree. Property location is 166 Norfolk Rd. Mr. Van Denburg mentioned that during a storm earlier this year the tree split and is in danger of taking other trees down. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and so voted to close this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve this application has a negative #3 determination with the condition being stump be left 5 or 6 feet and roots not be disturbed.

Carmona/Tatlock request for extension: Present was Representative Mr. Bryan Siter, Foresight Land Services. Mr. Siter mentioned that an order of conditions was issued in 2021 and work on the driveway is not done yet, still need to do the final grade. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve a 3-year extension.

#### Old Business:

171, 187, 201 & 839 Stratford Rd violation letters: Mr. Siter mentioned that he is representing all of the property owners who have received the violation letters and plans to submit applications for the upcoming meeting schedule in January.

#### New Business:

Dr. Schreiber mentioned that a complaint has been received for 373 Mill River Southfield Rd, in which it looks like a huge piece of equipment can be seen from the road. A letter will be sent to the property owner asking for permission to complete a site visit.

194 Canaan Southfield Rd emergency permit: Mr. Richard Larose, property owner has contact the permission regarding his driveway that was washed out during the last rainstorm and washes out at each storm. The culvert needs to be replaced. Mr. Charles Loring, Highway Superintendent and Fire Chief deemed it an emergency since no emergency vehicles can access to the house on the property. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve an emergency permit with the conditions: new culvert will comply with Massachusetts stream crossing standards, be properly sized, and embedded at least 25%. Silt fence will be installed along stream banks prior to excavation and replacement of culvert. Conservation Commission members has the availability to site visit during construction.

Canaan Southfield Rd Complaint: The Commission received an email complaint regarding property on Canaan Southfield Rd, in which the land in question does not seem to have enough

of it that is usable without altering the wetlands. Dr. Schreiber will reach out to the person to see if there was a map done of the property.

0 Canaan Southfield Rd violation letter: Representative, Ms. Emily Stockman, Stockman Associates Inc. was present. Ms. Stockman mentioned that the contractor contacted her and in November, state lines were begin decided. Ms. Stockman mentioned that she submitted a proposal to the property owner and he has accepted the proposal. Ms. Stockman asked if the Commission would agree to waiting until the spring for any work to commence and then she will be back in touch to the Commission. The Commission agreed with the Ms. Stockman request and awaits her proposal.

Agent contract: The Commission received the contract for an agent and will send the contract to Town Council for review before signing.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2024 at 5PM.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 6:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien  
Secretary