

Conservation Commission – March 16, 2023 in Zoom/Conference Call Meeting

Members present were Dr. John Schreiber, Co-Chair Chair, Mrs. Nanci Worthington, and Dr. Doug Hyde. Others present were Ms. Martha Bryan, Ms. Kristin Mallory, Mr. Terry Lush, Mr. Stu Mayerson, Mr. Matt Puntin & Mr. Michael Schafer.

Meeting was called to order at 5 PM.

Meeting minutes of Minutes February 16th, 2023 were accepted as amended.

Lush/Mallory Hearing: Present for this continued hearing was Mr. Matthew Puntin, SK Design Group Inc. and property owners Mr. Terry Lush & Ms. Kristen Mallory. Applicant submitted a NOI for the purpose of construction of driveway, house, garage, septic system, well and other associated items. Property location is Mill River Great Barrington Rd. Mr. Matt Puntin submitted a revised plans in response to DEP comments that show that the driveway pulled back more from the wetlands and has removed the culverts that DEP felt might adversely impact the wetlands. Dr. Schreiber inquired what will happen to the water runoff with no culverts. Mr. Puntin mentioned that the area is highly vegetated and water will run across the driveway, and believes water runoff isn't a concern. Dr. Schreiber inquired on how many trees in the wetlands will be replaced. Mr. Puntin mentioned that six (6) trees will be removed in the buffer zone and will install a silt fence with straw wattles. Dr. Schreiber mentioned to the property owners that in the future if any work is done in the 100 foot buffer zone then they will need to file permitting with the Commission. 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 with the following conditions: 1 to 1 replacement of native tree/shrubs vegetation and permission for the Commission to site visit during construction.

Town of New Marlborough Highway Department Hearing: Mr. Charles Loring, Highway Superintendent requested to continue this hearing until the April meeting due to the snow emergency. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to continue this hearing till April 20th meeting.

Stratford Road Follow-up hearings:

5 Stratford Rd - Mr. Stu Mayerson was presented for this follow up discussion. Dr. Schreiber mentioned that the Commission was given documents dated 1966 that predate the Wetland Protection Act, and that verify that the meadow adjacent to the lake predates the wetlands protection act and thus is not in violation. Any future work that occurs within the 100 foot buffer zone will require permitting from the Commission.

35 Stratford Rd – Mr. Michael Schafer, Huntley Associates Inc. was present for property owner, Ms. Loren Smith. Dr. Schreiber mentioned that clearing was done years ago but was allowed to grow in. Aerial photographs provided by Massachusetts DEP show recent removal of vegetation both near lake front and near a tributary river which requires permitting. Mr.

Schafer requests to continue this hearing until the April meeting so that he has time to access the property when snow has melted and complete a plan.

881 Stratford Rd - Mr. Michael Schafer, Huntley Associates Inc. was present for property owners, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cooper. Dr. Schreiber mentioned that the area has a sand beach and tree cutting that no permit was issued for. In addition, erosion has occurred into the lake from this unpermitted alteration of the lakefront. Mr. Schafer requests to continue this discussion till April meeting to complete a plan, and will work on the plan as soon as possible.

New Business: Mrs. Worthington mentioned that the Commission members completed a site visit with the Board of Selectmen on Hartsville Mill River Road by the bridge, for wetland bank restoration. Severe erosion along a large length of the riverbank has occurred. The Town has been working with Trout & Unlimited for a restoration plan. The Board of Selectman, Chair, Mr. Mark Carson requested that the Commission work on developing a river bed bylaw that could augment the wetlands protection act to prevent this type of severe river front damage.

Mail:

- Rennert – 346 New Marlborough Southfield Road – recorded order of conditions.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023 at 5PM.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien
Secretary