

Conservation Commission – September 21, 2023 hybrid Meeting

Members present were Dr. John Schreiber, Co-Chair, Mr. Freddy Friedman, Co-Chair, and Dr. Doug Hyde. Others present were Ms. Martha Bryan, Ms. Shannon Boomsma, Mr. Rubin Kier, Mr. Bryan Siter, Ms. Elizabeth Brown, Mr. Jerry Weinstock, Mr. Sebastian Krauz, Mr. Peter Scala, Mr. Brett Miller, and Mr. & Mrs. Michael Krasner.

Meeting was called to order at 5 PM.

Meeting minutes of August 17th, 2023 were accepted as amended.

WBW Condominium LLL Hearing: Present for this hearing was property owner, Mr. Jerry Weinstock. Property location is 24 Downs Rd. Applicant submitted a RDA for the purpose of removing three trees. After discussion and voting, a negative determination number 2 was determined with the following conditions: removal of two more dead trees in the wetlands, all stumps to be left in place at least 6 inches from grade, and replanting with native trees or shrubs at 1:1 ratio.

Krauz Hearing: Present for this hearing was representative, Mr. Sebastian Krauz. Property location is 1057 Hartsville New Marlborough Rd. Applicant submitted a RDA for a foundation and construction of a modular green house. Since the location was more than 240 feet from the riverbank high water mark and at significant elevation from the bank and not in a jurisdictional area a negative determination number 4 was made and voted on unanimously.

Brown Hearing: Present for this hearing was property owner, Ms. Elizabeth Brown. Property location is 72 Downs Rd. Applicant submitted a RDA for the purpose of excavated and pushing retaining wall from house. Ms. Brown mentioned that the wall of the house is rotting and would like to have access to repair the house. Ms. Brown also mentioned that wires are exposed due to the rotten wall. The Commission reviewed the regulations and this project is minor activity in a very small area of the buffer zone, house repair, CMR 10.02.a2 (repair an existing structure). 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 #5, with the conditions of install silt fence and minimize disturbance to the buffer zone.

Krasner Hearing: Present for this hearing was property owner, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Krasner. Property location is 29 Lakeside Rd. Applicant submitted a RDA for laying an asphalt pathway. Mrs. Krasner mentioned that the drainage has been an issue for many years, have they have tried to manage it a few times in the past, which did not correct the issue. Erosion and runoff from the road. The Commission discussed the erosion issue and the RDA proposing to put an asphalt pathway to the lake and determined that the work proposed would require a NOI and thus was a positive #3 determination. The applicants said they would hire an engineer to determine the best way to move forwards.

Smith Hearing: Present for this hearing was representative, Mr. Bryan Siter, Foresight Land Services Inc. Property location is 35 Stratford Rd. Applicant submitted a NOI for the purpose of streambank restoration & vegetable garden. Mr. Siter mentioned that an intermittent stream runs through the property, and the project work will be restoration of west bank, re-establishing native vegetation. Mr. Siter also mentioned that no more mowing is occurring. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to close this hearing. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve an order of conditions with work to be done either this fall or next spring.

839 Stratford Rd: Present was property owner, Mr. Kier and representative Mr. Siter. Mr. Siter mention that there are erosion issues, and have stopped mowing in some areas. Mr. Siter will submit a RDA.

Stebbins Hearing: Present was Ms. Boomsma, White Engineering Inc. Ms. Boomsma submitted a restoration plan per the enforcement order, for fill that was placed in the wetlands area that was not permitted. Ms. Boomsma plan is to create a meadow area that is 1806 square feet. The Commission will inspect the work property when is completed and once in the spring. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the restoration plan as submitted.

Old Business:

0 Canaan Southfield Rd: Dr. Schreiber mentioned that a violation letter was sent out to the property owner and no response has been received for the wetlands buried and not permitted for 1 ½ acres lot. The Commission will send out another reminder letter to the property owner for a response.

171 Stratford Rd: Present was Mr. Scala, Windemere representative. Mr. Scala mentioned that in the past before 2005 the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen had to sign off for a building permit co. Dr. Schreiber mentioned that the Cons Comm could not locate any permitting for the fill used to create a beach (or for clearing at the lakefront) in a jurisdictional area. Since fill is a violation each day after it is placed it is not subject the same way other violations are to the two-year statute of limits.

187 Stratford Rd: Mr. Miller was present and stated they are in the process of hiring an engineer.

201 Stratford Rd: Present was representative, Mr. Siter. Mr. Siter mentioned that he would be in contact to schedule a site visit with the Commission members.

New Business:

Dr. Schreiber mentioned that Mr. Cameron was not able to be present to discuss hiring as a consultant for the Commission. Dr. Schreiber will reach out to see if Mr. Cameron will be available to attend the October meeting.

The discussion of the potential riverbank bylaw did not occur since Mrs. Worthington was not present.

The Commission reviewed the special permit for 92 County Rd – accessory dwelling unit. The reviewing of the location for the accessory dwelling unit is not jurisdictional and a memo will be sent to the Board of Selectmen.

Dr. Schreiber mentioned that he had received a compliant regarding roadside mowing, which is done by the highway department. Since the person who made the compliant was not able to be present, the Commission do not know what areas they are complaining about. Dr. Schreiber will reach out to the person and see if they could attend the meeting in October.

Mail:

*Recorded – certificate of compliance – Hartt – 829 Mill River Southfield Rd.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2023 at 5PM.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chretien
Secretary