



# ***Town of Colchester, Connecticut***

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Website: [www.colchesterct.gov](http://www.colchesterct.gov)

## **COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

**Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**A. MEMBERS PRESENT:** Falk von Plachecki; Chairman, Darrell York; Vice Chairman, Sue Bruening, Michele Kosmo, Rebecca Meyer, Michael Rogers, Jay Gigliotti; Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Denise Turner; BOS Liaison, and Applicants representation.

**ABSENT:** None

### **CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman von Plachecki called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **B. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

*Motion made by R. Meyer to add H) A. Farm & Forest Preservation Program. Motion was seconded by S. Bruening. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 9, 2020**

The 12/9/20 minutes shall be amended to include "R. Meyer is now seated as a voting member." under Item C Approval of Minutes.

*Motion made by S. Bruening to approve the minutes of December 9, 2020 as amended. Motion was seconded by D. York. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **D. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None**

### **E. PENDING APPLICATIONS**

**A. W2020-3058- 525 Norwich Avenue, Chase Taylor- Applicant/ Owner, Assessor's Map 29-00 Lot 004-000, proposed wetland fill for equipment storage area.**

J. Gigliotti summarized the application and stated the applicant's engineer, Mr. Mark Reynolds was present to discuss the application.

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Mark Reynolds, representing the applicant, detailed the application to the commission and provided a series of slides indicating the proposed activities. He explained the soil scientist hired for the project, is no longer in business. A new soil scientist has been hired and is working to prepare an evaluation of the wetland and the proposed activity. Mr. Reynolds explained he has been working on a report on the drainage of the site. He explained that he intends to complete the remaining items and submit for the next meeting in February.

*R. Meyer moved to table W2020-3058 525 Norwich Avenue, Chase Taylor- Applicant/ Owner, Assessor's Map 29-00 Lot 004-000, proposed wetland fill for equipment storage area to the next regular scheduled meeting. Motion was seconded by D. York. Motion carried unanimously.*

**F. NEW APPLICATIONS – None**

**G. OLD BUSINESS – None**

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Farm and Forest Land Presentation Program**

Jay Gigliotti explained the Board of Selectmen have decided to create an Ad Hoc committee to explore the option for the Town develop a program where developments rights could be purchased from farm or forest land owners by the town. The goal of the program would be to have more options available to the town to preserve land and farms. The Board of Selectmen are requesting a representative from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission, Open Space Advisory Committee, Agriculture Commission and the Land Trust, be selected and attend the Ad Hoc Committee meetings.

Leslie Curtis, of the Colchester Agriculture Commission, was present and discussed the proposed Farm & Forest Preservation program.

The commission discussed the potential representatives to the Ad Hoc committee. Mike Rogers was selected to represent the Conservation Commission with Michelle Kosmo as an alternate.

**I. ENFORCEMENT**

**1. Show Cause Hearing – 956 Middletown Road**

M. Rogers inspected the property on 1/5/21 and provided a report of his observations. M. Rogers reviewed his observations and report with the commission. The commission discussed the steps moving forward. It was determined the work that was conducted was in need of a Wetlands Administrative Permit. If an administrative permit is issued, the commission could then release the Cease & Desist order. The applicant's representation stated he would like to discuss the permit with his clients and would get back to staff.

*M. Rogers moved to table 956 Middletown Road, Show Cause Hearing to the next regular scheduled meeting. Motion was seconded by S. Bruening. Motion carried unanimously*

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## **J. CONSERVATION**

Jay Gigliotti explained he is still awaiting the decision from CT DEEP as to whether the town's 2020 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant has been awarded.

## **K. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Wetland Administrative Permits – None since December meeting
- B. Staff updates & other correspondence- Mike Rogers and Michelle Kosmo have taken training courses

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion made by S. Bruening to adjourn at 8:07 pm. Motion was seconded by M. Rogers. Motion carried unanimously*

Chairman von Plachecki adjourned the January 13, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting at 8:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted, *Jay Gigliotti*