



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Website: www.colchesterct.gov

COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue

Minutes of Meeting

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

CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

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

B. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 10, 2021

Motion made by M. Kosmo to approve the minutes of February 10, 2021. Motion was seconded by M. Rogers. 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 reported to the commission of revised plans that have been received. Mr. Reynolds, representing the applicant was present for discussion.

Mark Reynolds, representing the applicant, reviewed the application with the commission and provided a series of slides indicating the proposed activities. The wetland delineated area was pointed out for the commission along with the proposed parking area. The applicant since the last meeting has met with the town engineer on site and a test pit was inspected to confirm ground water levels and has been determined to be around elevation 98 which is consistent with the other areas on the site. J. Gigliotti asked the applicant if the square footage of impacted wetland changed with the revised plan. Mr.

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Reynolds stated there was some area that was traded due to the elevation, and the square footage had a minimal change.

M. Rogers moved to approve W2020-3058 525 Norwich Avenue, Chase Taylor- Applicant/ Owner, Assessor's Map 29-00 Lot 004-000, proposed wetland fill for equipment storage area. Motion was seconded by D. York. Motion carried unanimously.

F. NEW APPLICATIONS – W2021-3061- 25 Colburn Drive, Paul Burba- Applicant/ Owner, Assessor's Map 02-06 Lot 037-01A, proposed man made pond within URA.

J. Gigliotti reported to the commission of a pond that is within the upland review area and the applicant Mark Reynolds is present to discuss.

Mark Reynolds, shared a slide showing the proposed pond. The wetlands were pointed out for the commission. Silt fencing will be in place during construction and the pond will be complete excavated.

Michelle Kosmo asked during excavation what the plan is for the excavated material. Mr. Reynolds stated the intent is to haul away the majority of the material.

D. York moved to table W2021-3061- 25 Colburn Drive, Paul Burba- Applicant/ Owner, Assessor's Map 02-06 Lot 037-01A, proposed man made pond within URA. Motion was seconded by M. Kosmo. Motion carried unanimously.

G. OLD BUSINESS – None

H. NEW BUSINESS- None

I. ENFORCEMENT- None

J. CONSERVATION

J. Gigliotti reported to the commission, Tractor Supply is selling the land in its entirety to another LLC. The conservation easement language states that the holder of the easement (Town of Colchester) will be notified as well as the Army Corps, prior to the property transfer.

J. Gigliotti updated the commission on the work that is being done with the UCONN students, wildlife majors, to do a wildlife management plan at Ruby Cohen. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of March and at that time will be present to the Board of Selectman. The commission asked to be notified upon completion and when they will make their presentation so members are able to be in attendance.

K. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Wetland Administrative Permits – J. Gigliotti reported on one administrative permit that was issued at 120 Linwood Ave. They are working on an addition to the building and would like to add a pervious parking area that clips the edge of the upland review area.

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B. Staff update & other correspondence- J. Gigliotti updated the commission on the potential Brownfield applications that has been previously discussed; First property is located on River Road and the second on Comstock Bridge Road; both of which front the Jeremy River. The purpose of these applications was for assessment grants looking for funding to conduct environmental site assessments. Staff submitted the one application for the property on Comstock Bridge Road. The pre application was accepted. The next step is a full application which is due the first week in April.

J. Gigliotti noted an email that was received from D. Lambert of 956 Middletown Ave asking staff to again investigate property located at 948 Middletown Ave.

J. Gigliotti reported of a project being worked on called Sustainable CT, a certification process that staff is working at obtaining.

J. Gigliotti reported on the Open Space Grant that was applied for has been awarded to Colchester. Unfortunately, the program decided to only fund 30-40% of the projects awarded. Colchesters application was to purchase 65 acres on Middletown Road as Open Space. The town requested \$150,000 and was awarded \$63,000. Staff was before the Board of Selectman to ask for additional appropriation to supplement the award that was provided from the program. It was approved and recommend to the board of finance. Staff will be before the Board of Finance on March 17th at 6:30pm, and staff is asking members of the Conservation Commission to attend the meeting for support.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by D. York to adjourn at 7:33 pm. Motion was seconded by M. Rogers. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman von Plachecki adjourned the March 10, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kamey Cavanaugh