



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Website: www.colchesterct.gov

COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue

Minutes of Meeting

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

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 – April 14, 2021

Motion made by D. York to approve the minutes of April 14, 2021 noting Denise Turner was not present at that meeting. Motion was seconded by M. Kosmo. Motion carried. Rebecca Meyer abstained.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Leslie Curtis, 110 Cato Corner Road stated to the commission as a member of the Agricultural Commission has been selected to liaison the Conservation Commission. Ms. Curtis asked if anything is coming up that might have an agricultural impact to reach out; in addition, she will also review upcoming agendas.

E. PENDING APPLICATIONS

Michael Rogers recused himself as a member of the Conservation Commission for discussion of this application.

- A. W2021-3062- 115 Windham Avenue, Michael Rogers Jr., - Owner / Applicant, Assessors Map 27-00 Lot 013-000, proposed property improvements within wetland regulated areas. DRD 10/15/21**

J. Gigliotti reported to the commission with an aerial map showing the wetlands and the plan to try an mitigate some of the past uses that are limiting the wetland function.

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Colchester Conservation Commission

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2021 MAY 14 AM 11:59
Gayle Furrman
CLERK

Michael Rogers's owner of 115 Windham Ave provided the commission with a description of some of the work that has taken place on the site over the years. Mr. Rogers spoke of a pipe that was placed in the ground to remove some of the water and it is not effective therefore he would like to remove and replace with a stream like swale, planting native plants all along and adding a couple of smaller pond areas allowing the natural environment to take over. All of the proposed work will be done by hand.

D. York moved to TABLE W2021-3062- 115 Windham Avenue, Michael Rogers Jr., - Owner / Applicant, Assessors Map 27-00 Lot 013-000, proposed property improvements within wetland regulated areas for statutory reasons. Motion was seconded by M. Kosmo. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael Rogers was reseated for the meeting.

F. NEW APPLICATIONS – None

G. OLD BUSINESS – None

H. NEW BUSINESS-

A. Preliminary Discussion, 68 Mill Lane West, Brian Mandeville, installation of drain

J. Gigliotti, Mr. Rogers and Mr. York visited 68 Mill Lane. Mr. Mandeville explained what he was wanting to do to the site. The members on the site walk suggested Mr. Mandeville speak to specialist to see if the plan he has to remove the water from the basement will be successful and to then report back to the commission with a plan.

I. ENFORCEMENT-

- A.** 91 Amston Road- A notice of violation has been sent to the owners of 91 Amston Road regarding activity (clearing, etc.) within a wetland and upland review area. Mr. Gigliotti has visited the site and photos were taken and shared of the clearing that has taken place on the site. Since the first site walk, a trench has been filled, some trash has been removed from the site although trash still remains. Staff believes the owner is willing to comply, but we would like to see more progress with the cleanup. The commission agreed if the property owner continues to work with staff to resolve the issues that would be good progress. In addition, the commission is also requiring the property owner to return the property to its natural habitat by implementing a planting plan prepared by a soil scientist.
- B.** Old Amston Road – At the junk yard there appears to be some clean up taking place. The zone has been changed to allow for a medical marijuana production facility. At a visit to the site staff observed water on the property that was being drained by way of a trench directing water over the town right of way into a catch basin in the road. A notice of violation was issued to the property owners and compliance was immediate.

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Colchester Conservation Commission

J. CONSERVATION

- A. J. Gigliotti reported to the commission the Open Space Grant that was awarded for 65 acres on Middletown Road is proceeding, however the property owner has since passed away moving this into probate.

K. CORRESPONDENCE

Administrative Permits Issued:

- A. 8 Farmwood Drive – Basketball Court
- B. 52 Starwood Trail – Pool and a Shed
- C. 31 Lakeview Drive – Expansion of a Deck
- D. 151 Pickerel Lake – In Ground Pool

J. Gigliotti reported on the UCONN wildlife students created a management plan for Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen woodlands. They have completed and provided a full presentation of the plan and it has been presented to the BOS.

The full presentation of the plan can be found here [Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands Management Plan 2021](#)

J. Gigliotti reported on a Brownfield Assessment Grant that has been applied for through the state for \$27500 for environmental site investigation on a mill site on Comstock Bridge Road. The State has reached out to staff for some follow up questions and a decision should be coming soon.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by M. Roger to adjourn at 7:54 pm. Motion was seconded by D. York. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman von Plachecki adjourned the May 12, 2021 Conservation Commission meeting at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kamey Cavanaugh