

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION &
INLAND WETLAND AGENCY MINUTES
October 27, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Destefanis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Destefanis would be acting Chair for this virtual meeting.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Cherichetti took the roll call.

PRESENT: Ed Holowinko, Chair; Karen Destefanis; John Moeling; Steve Klocke; Matt Pentz; John Levin; and Cheryl Brown
Alexis Cherichetti, staff.

III. RECEIPT & DISCUSSION

I. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION

a) **#S20-553 – 12 Holiday Drive - Laughton** – Corrective Action restoration of a wetland, watercourse and upland review area

Ms. Cherichetti confirmed the applicant was not in attendance at the meeting. She noted that Mr. Laughton had sent her revisions to his proposal following all of the comments regarding his proposal at the previous meeting. She indicated she had just preliminarily reviewed the plans and thought it would be best to first discuss draft revisions with Mr. Laughton.

Mr. Moeling asked if the revisions were reflective of the Agency's prior comments. He noted he felt there was an occupation of the wetland and found that concerning.

Ms. Cherichetti confirmed the application would be on for review again at the November 10th meeting.

b) **#S20-554 – 164 West Cedar Street (Colonial Village) – Norwalk Housing Authority** – Construction of 69-unit residential complex with associated grading and landscaping adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

***** MR. HOLOWINKO RECUSED HIMSELF.**

***** MR. KLOCKE LEFT THE MEETING.**

Ms. Cherichetti recalled the public hearing on this application had opened and closed at the last meeting. She provided a brief recap of the public hearing and noted she had prepared a staff report with a draft resolution to approve with conditions based on the Commissioners' comments during the meeting.

Ms. Cherichetti reviewed the draft resolution in her memorandum.

Mr. Moeling commented that he thought the applicant did an excellent job of responding to questions during the hearing. He added he did not have any issues with the proposal.

Ms. Brown asked about the maintenance declaration and wanted to make sure it refers to a specific plan and that it covers the rain garden, the stormwater system and the wetland area as well.

Mr. Pentz agreed there was nothing of major concern.

Ms. Destefanis stated she really appreciated the public participation and found it helpful, although she felt it did not bring to light any new or unknown circumstances that would warrant denial of the application. She noted she was glad the public attended and advocated for conservation measures. She noted the

application presented a comprehensive plan, including back-up information regarding the stormwater management plan.

Mr. Pentz asked if there was any urgency in making a decision and perhaps they could continue to mull it over. Ms. Destefanis noted a delay in making a decision was possible if they were still within their regulatory timeframe and noted it would be best if he could convey any specific concerns. Mr. Pentz noted he did not have anything specific, rather he was just still going through all the information.

Ms. Brown noted she found their plan was good. In particular she noted the proposed wetland planting was more than adequate and she had no issues with the project.

***** MR. MOELING MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION CONTAINED WITHIN MS. CHERICHETTI'S MEMORANDUM AND APPROVE APPLICATION #S20-554.**

***** MS. BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

There was a discussion regarding whether the special condition language needed to be altered to reflect the discussion regarding the maintenance declaration. Ms. Cherichetti noted no changes were needed, but she would get assurances regarding Special Condition #8, that the declaration refers to specific plans, that paragraph #3 includes the wetland area, and it is in perpetuity.

***** MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ONE ABSTENTION (LEVIN).**

***** MR. HOLOWINKO RETURNED TO THE MEETING.**

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) October 13, 2020 minutes

Ms. Destefanis noted they were great and she loved that the minutes captured the Commissioners' chit-chat and the appreciation of Ed's cat.

***** MS. BROWN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES.**

***** MS. DESTEFANIS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

VI. COMMENTS OF STAFF

Ms. Cherichetti welcomed the newest Commissioner, John Levin. Ms. Destefanis jokingly noted the long-standing tradition of having the newest member sing carols during the December meeting.

VII. COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

The Commissioners congratulated Mr. Levin for such a short meeting for his debut as a Commissioner. Mr. Levin noted the half hour meeting would be his expectation.

Mr. Holowinko welcomed Mr. Levin and reiterated some of the Commission's accomplishments over the last few decades.

Ms. Cherichetti asked when Mr. Holowinko was appointed. It was determined Ms. Destefanis was appointed in 1999 (nearly 22 years ago!!!) and Mr. Holowinko was appointed in late 2000 or early 2001.

Mr. Levin noted he did visit the Conservation Easement area at Norden Place over the weekend and was very impressed with the open space area that had been preserved.

V. ADJOURNMENT

***** MR. MOELING MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

***** MS. DESTEFANIS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:25PM.