

NORWALK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

February 24, 2004

ATTENDANCE: MATT CAPUTO, CHAIRMAN; D. SEELEY HUBBARD, VICE-CHAIRMAN; SUSAN LLORCA; ALTERNATE; ANDREW KYDES; ANNE CAGNINA; BETH ACKERMAN, ALTERNATE

STAFF: ALEXIS CHERICHETTI, SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

OTHER: John Anderson, Environmental Land Solutions; Don Strait, Landscaper

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

BOND RELEASES &/OR REDUCTIONS

a) S02-112 – 595 Westport Avenue – Pepperidge Farm – Restoration landscaping consequent of remediation of contaminated material in and adjacent to wetland and watercourse.

Ms. Cherichetti said that Pepperidge Farm was eligible for bond release November of 2003. Ms. Cherichetti said that about 1/3 of the bond covers short plantings and the rest were brushes, Iris brush wetland flowers and native grasses. She said that because of the season she could not do an extensive inspection. Mr. Caputo asked if she wanted to wait to release the bond. Ms. Cherichetti said that she could not give a report on the status. Ms. Cherichetti said that the first week of April was the earliest to inspect the area. Mr. Caputo suggested waiting to release the bond.

b) #S02-88 – 10 Blue Mountain Road – Lemone – Construction of a new single family residence adjacent to a wetland and watercourse.

Ms. Cherichetti said that a permit was taken out in 2002 for the construction of a single-family house. She said that the site has been stabilized and was very nice.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO RELEASE THE BOND ON #S02—88 10 BLUE MOUNTAIN ROAD.**

**** MS. LLORCA SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

a) January 13, 2004

b) February 10, 2004

The minutes were tabled until next month's meeting.

COMMENTS OF STAFF

a) Declaratory Permits and Enforcement Actions

Ms. Cherichetti said that two permits were issued and they were for 95 North Seir Hill Road and 144 Silvermine Avenue. Ms. Cherichetti said that the request was to have a 300 square foot addition to the Silvermine Pro Shop. She said that the Declaratory Permit was granted with condition of the wetland that was maintained as a green, which was 75' from the wetland.

Ms. Cherichetti said that the 144 Silvermine Avenue was to build a 14-foot shed, which was 21 feet from the watercourse. She said that the shed would be put on the ground. She said that the permit was approved with conditions.

Ms. Cherichetti said that there were no enforcement actions taken at this time. She said a soil scientist was found to do the soil testing at Singing Woods Lane.

b) Draft regulation changes

Ms. Cherichetti said that she would mail a copy of the draft to everyone. She said that there are changes in the state statutes following a variety of public acts last year and contradictions within the City's regulations. She said that this has been sent to the law department and will have comments at the next meeting.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

a) Open Space Plan Guidelines

Ms. Cherichetti said that she would email or mail copies of the guidelines for the Commission. Ms. Cagnina said that the Commission tried to make the guidelines a selling document to the public and a friendly document.

Ms. Cherichetti said that the goals of the document were natural resource protection and management, outdoor recreation, protection of public health and safety and promotion of community character and quality of life. She said that the document would cover the discussion of registry of open space to help the Commission to come up with a current inventory of protected open space parcels.

Ms. Cherichetti said that page five was a work in process. She said that the subcommittee felt that a list of specific goals and specific actions would come out during the public forum when the Commission presents the guidelines.

Mr. Caputo asked when the public hearing would be held. Ms. Cherichetti said that in probably late March. Mr. Caputo asked if everything could be incorporated into the March meeting. Mr. Caputo asked if the hearing could be held in March. He added that he has not been here for a while and thanked the Commission for the work that was done on the guidelines.

Ms. Cherichetti said that she would email or fax the guidelines to everyone.

Mr. Caputo called for a recess at 6:40pm.

Mr. Caputo reconvened the meeting at 7:07pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – (CONTINUATION BEGINS AT 7:00PM.)

a) 6 Bonnybrook Trail – Tarala - #S03-178 – Construction of a retaining wall, dredging of sediments and associated landscaping in a pond.

Mr. Caputo said that this was a continuation from the previous public hearing on January 27, 2004 for 6 Bonnybrook Trail.

Ms. Cherichetti said that the Commission needed information on the biological evaluation of the property and the potential impacts to the ecology of the pond and surrounding area. She said that everyone should have the report from John Anderson tonight.

Mr. Caputo said that the Commissioners have received the report and for the limited purpose of evaluation. Ms. Cherichetti said that if the Commission needed more information, the Commission needed to state that tonight. The Commission should make a decision within 35-45 days from tonight.

John Anderson, Environmental Solutions, was present tonight to give a presentation of the property at 6 Bonnybrook Trail. He said that the pond was a manmade pond.

Mr. Anderson said that typically in manmade pond it is done in line with a watercourse to supply the proper amount of hydrology. Mr. Anderson said that during the summer month lower water levels are present.

Mr. Anderson said that dredging involves closing both entrances to the pond to draw water down, then remove the soil from the site. He said the dredging would serve to increase the viability of the pond by providing different types of habitat for improving wildlife functions as well as water quality.

He said a way to do that was to create a submerge shelf along the pond with vegetation for animals and give an opportunity for the wildlife to escape from predators on shore. Mr. Anderson said that this was a sound plan with the creation of the wildlife island and creation of the submerged shelf. He added that this would be good for a variety of wildlife.

Mr. Kydes asked how long the process would take. Mr. Anderson said that it would be a couple of weeks depending on the size of the pond. Mr. Anderson added that the best time to do this process was late summer.

Mr. Anderson said that a biologist would be present when the wildlife was removed from the pond.

Don Strait, Landscape Architect, said that the island would have better quality materials mixed with the dredge material. He said that some silt would be used to reinforce the slope of the island.

Mr. Kydes asked how often would the pond be re-dredged. Mr. Anderson said that the vegetation would limit the sediment.

Ms. Cherichetti asked what the impact would be on the neighbors' pond. Mr. Sprite said that with the added silt fence along the property line during the construction but it was lower on the other side. Ms. Cherichetti said that a special condition would be allowing a field change during dredging and dredging within 10' feet of the western property line would not result in greater than a 2 foot difference in excavation or depth position. Mr. Sprite said that he could change the grading near the property line within five feet. Mr. Caputo said that the Commission could approve this with conditions so that the plans would not have to be changed. Mr. Sprite said that it could be a condition of approval.

Ms. Cherichetti said that she would recommend the public hearing conclude this evening and therefore the Commission could not ask the applicant for more information, however the Commission could approve this with conditions.

Ms. Cagnina said that she was pleased with the public hearing.

Mr. Caputo closed the public hearing at 7:37pm.

DISCUSSION/DECISION

b) 6 Bonnybrook Trail – Tarala - #S03-178 – Construction of a retaining wall, dredging of sediments and associated landscaping in a pond.

Ms. Cherichetti said that after the last meeting she began to draft additional special conditions. Ms. Cherichetti read her last draft of the special conditions

to the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. CAGNINA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**** MS. ACKERMAN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Lane

Telesco Secretarial Services

