

NORWALK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

February 27, 2007

ATTENDANCE: Anne Cagnina, Chair; Andrew Kydes; D. Seeley Hubbard; Ed Holowinko; Matthew Caputo (6:10 PM); Karen Destefanis (6:14 PM)

STAFF: Alexis Cherichetti, Senior Environmental Officer

OTHERS: Attorney David Waters; Kate Throckmorton; Jules Lang; Holt McChord; Michael ??

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Cherichetti called the roll.

RECEIPT/DISCUSSION

a) #S06-265 –78 Cranbury Rd./440 Newtown Ave. – Connecticut Friends School – Construction of a school and associated activities in and adjacent to wetlands and watercourses

Ms. Cherichetti introduced the application. Attorney Waters represented the applicant.

Attorney Waters reviewed the site plan. He noted that a public hearing was expected, so the applicant would not present all information tonight and then repeat it at the hearing.

Mr. McChord reviewed existing and proposed conditions. He noted that Stony Brook flows through the site, and pointed out the wetlands on the site. He described the “green” aspects of the development and said the school planned to apply for LEEDS certification. Mr. McChord also described traffic and drainage plans for the site. He said that some wetlands would be disturbed during construction due to grading and driveway location.

Ms. Throckmorton described areas of wetland mitigation and enhancement, which would be focused on the secondary wetland system. She also pointed out areas of wetland creation.

Attorney Waters noted that the Conservation Commission did not generally review architectural plans, but said he wanted to discuss the environmental aspects of the building.

Michael ?? said the applicant intended to seek LEEDS certification for the new building. He described the building plans and energy-saving design features.

Ms. Cagnina noted that this was a unique project for Norwalk.

There was a discussion of the limits of the upland review areas throughout the site.

Mr. Caputo asked how the wetland loss would be mitigated. Ms. Throckmorton discussed mitigation plans, including wetland creation.

Mr. Kydes asked about bus transit plans. There was a discussion of school transportation.

Mr. Caputo asked about wetland disturbance. Ms. Throckmorton described the planned areas of fill and disturbance.

Mr. Caputo asked if there had been neighborhood input into the project. Attorney Waters said there had been substantial input, and neighbors continued to be involved.

Ms. Cherichetti asked if the applicant had considered using city sewer systems instead of a septic system. A representative explained that a septic system had been found to have less of an environmental impact.

Ms. Cherichetti listed additional information she had requested from the applicant.

MINUTES

a) January 13, 2007

** MR. CAPUTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

** MS. CAGNINA SECONDED THE MOTION.

** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (MS. DESTEFANIS).

COMMENTS OF STAFF

a) Minor Permits & Enforcement Actions

Ms. Cherichetti reported that she had issued one minor permit. She asked the commissioners to authorize staff to issue a minor permit for corrective action at 109 Keeler Avenue. After a brief discussion, the commissioners agreed.

b) DEP Commissioner Training Program

Ms. Cherichetti described the annual commissioner training sessions.

c) Report of Senior Environmental Officer

There was a brief discussion of the scheduling of a show-cause hearing.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

a) Public Education Projects

Ms. Cherichetti said Ms. Destefanis had found a brochure published by the Norwalk Tree Alliance and suggested that the Commission not duplicate efforts on the topic. She also said she was attempting to contact the local board of Realtors.

ADJOURNMENT

** MR. CAPUTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.

** MS. DESTEFANIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at ____ PM.

