

**NORWALK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**City of Norwalk  
Conservation Commission  
July 24, 2007**

ATTENDANCE: D. Seeley Hubbard, Chair; Andrew Kydes; Matt Caputo; Ed Holowinko; Emily Wilson; Chris Handrinos (6:12 pm); Karen Destefanis; (6:20 pm)

STAFF: Alexis Cherichetti, Senior Environmental Officer

OTHER: Kate Throckmorton, Environmental Land Solutions

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Ms. Cherichetti called the roll.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

\*\* MR. CAPUTO MADE A MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT.

\*\* MR. HOLOWINKO SECONDED THE MOTION.

\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\*\* MR. CAPUTO MADE A MOTION TO EXIST EXECUTIVE SESSION.

\*\* MS. DESTEFANIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE OF PENDING LITIGATION AND SETTLEMENTS

a) Conservation Permit #S07-265 - 440 Newtown Ave./78 Cranbury Road – CT Friends School

Following a very brief discussion, there was consensus to table any decision until additional information was available.

## RECEIPT/DISCUSSION

a) # S07-281 – 81 Wolfpit Avenue – Strawberry Woods Condominium – Corrective action landscaping in a wetland

Mr. Holowinko announced that he needed to leave the meeting for the night.

Ms. Cherichetti presented a short summary of the application. She noted that the application was filed as directed in the previously issued Notice of Violation. Ms. Cherichetti noted the absence of a specific planting plan.

Ms. Schershing, representing the condo association, explained that the landscape manager of the property would remove the accumulated landscaping debris from the wetland.

Ms. Cagnina suggested to the applicant that a planting plan, including the proposed size and number of proposed plants, be provided to the Commission in advance of any decision.

b) #S07-282 – 28 Saxon Road – Layman – Landscape improvements, minor filling, retaining wall adjacent to a wetland

Kate Throckmorton, Environmental Land Solutions, LLC, presented the application on behalf of her client. She explained that the property owners are seeking to fine grade portions of their rear and side yards. In addition to the grading, she noted, the applicants would remove some invasive plants, establish and enhance the wetland buffer, and add native plants to the wetland.

There was general consensus among Commissioners that there were no prohibitive concerns with the proposed activities. Mr. Caputo requested that Ms. Cherichetti draft a possible resolution for approval of the proposal for Commissioners to consider at the next meeting.

## DISCUSSION/DECISION

a) #S07-271 – 20 Betmarlea Drive – McGettigan – Construction of addition, and associated on-site septic changes, driveway and landscaping activities, adjacent to wetland and watercourse

No new information was presented on this application, so further discussion.

b) #S07-275 – 129 East Rocks Road – Gulick Associates, Inc. – Two (2) lot subdivision of land in and adjacent to a watercourse and wetland

Mr. Kydes stated that he saw no major issues with this application. He noted that the applicant had illustrated that a new house could be constructed far enough from the wetland and watercourse system.

Following a discussion regarding stormwater drainage and tree removal, Mr. Caputo suggested that Ms. Cherichetti might prepare a draft resolution for consideration at the next meeting.

c) S07-279 – 15 Cranbury Woods Road – McCarthy/Sanchez – Filling, grading, landscaping, and drainage improvements in and adjacent to a wetland

The extent of the proposed work was reviewed. Ms. Cherichetti distributed additional information that had been requested from the applicant.

Representatives of the applicant presented a revised site plan and a drainage report.

Mr. Hubbard acknowledged that the work would be within a wetland and watercourse, and that the work would alter the stormwater drainage patterns, which might affect the neighbors.

**\*\* MR. CAPUTO MADE A MOTION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON PERMIT APPLICATION #S07-279 AT THE NEXT MEETING ON AUGUST 14, 2008.**

**\*\* MR. KYDES SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

d) #S07-280 – 18 Cloverly Circle – Viggiano –Restoration, landscaping and grading in and adjacent to a wetland

The Commissioners reviewed the new landscaping plan that was distributed by Mr. Viggiano, the applicant and owner.

Mr. Caputo observed that the plan was necessary for the Commission to fairly assess the proposed activities. He noted that the revised plan was easier to follow.

Mr. Hubbard indicated that he and fellow Commissioner would review the plan and proposal and would prepare to make a decision on the application at the next meeting in August.

## MINUTES

No action was taken on the minutes.

## COMMENTS OF STAFF

### a) Minor Permits and Enforcement Actions

Ms. Cherichetti briefly described Minor Permits issued and noted two violations for which she would issue Notices of Violation within the week.

### b) Report of Senior Environmental Officer

Ms. Cherichetti noted that the job description for the Environmental Compliance Officer position had been finalized and she hopes it would be advertised within the following month.

## COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

### ADJOURNMENT

\*\* MR. CAPUTO MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

\*\* MR. HUBBARD SECONDED THE MOTION.

\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

