

**CITY OF NORWALK
INLAND WETLAND AGENCY
MARCH 23, 2010**

PRESENT: Karen Destefanis, Chair; Matthew Caputo; Emily Wilson; Lou Bonsangue;
Anne Cagnina

STAFF: Alexis Cherichetti, Senior Environmental Officer

OTHERS: Chris Torre, DPW; Evan McGee; Stefan Morquart; Leonard D'Andrea

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Destefanis called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Cherichetti took the roll call.

III. RECIEPT & DISCUSSION

- a) **#S10-368 – 30 Winfield Street – City of Norwalk DPW – Removal and excavation of excess sediment within a watercourse**

Ms. Cherichetti showed photographs of the Vanderbuilt site and described the channel, which she said had very little vegetation.

Mr. Chris Torre, of DPW, confirmed that there was straightforward access and that the gate could be opened up easily. He said that the work would take less than one day.

The Commission agreed to vote on the item at its April 13 meeting.

IV. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION

- a) **#S10-367 – 131 North Taylor Avenue – Department of Public Works – Excavation of excess sediment within a watercourse**

Ms. Cherichetti said that the activity was limited to the watercourse on the property at 131 North Taylor Avenue. She said that the golf course had experienced flooding and also that the work was requested in the spring for this reason. She described changes in the narrative of DPW concerning the site. Ms. Cherichetti said that the upstream pipe would be plugged, that hay bales would be put in place, and that the work would be done with a small backhoe.

Mr. Torre explained that the small backhoe would be used, instead of a vacuum truck due to the immense weight of a vac-truck . He added that the whole job would take less than an hour.

Ms. Cherichetti agreed to draft a resolution.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) March 9, 2010

Ms. Cherichetti said that the minutes were not yet available.

VII. COMMENTS OF STAFF

a) Compliance Summary

b) Report of Senior Environmental Officer

Ms. Cherichetti discussed the revised list of Commissioners, pointing out the two vacancies for alternates. She announced the Ms. Briggs had resigned, since she will be moving out of town in the near future.

She distributed copies of the publication, "The Habitat."

She also stated that she was compiling interesting case law regard inland wetlands, adding that she would obtain the website for he commissioners.

Lastly, Ms. Cherichetti noted that she had received a request for a partial waiver of an application. She said that a minor permit application for 127 Fallow Street was forthcoming. She said that a mosque with associated parking was proposed for the one-acre lot. The Commission discussed the location of project. There was a discussion of the application fee and whether it was in excess of the costs by the City to review the application. Ms.. Wilson clarified that the base fee for the initial review was acceptable and that only the additional fees for further review were actually excessive.

**** MS. WILSON MADE A MOTION TO WAIVE THE ACTIVITY FEE FOR THE DESCRIBED ACTIVITIES AT 127 FALLOW STREET.**

**** MS. CAGNINA SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VIII. COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

a) Report of Commission Chair

There were none tonight.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS (TO BEGIN AT 7:00 PM)

a) **#S10-364 – 6 Styles Lane – Valadares** – Corrective Action landscaping, filling and piping in and adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Destefanis opened the public hearing.

Ms. Cherichetti took the roll call and read the legal notice. She said that the notice mailing receipts from some abutting neighbors had been submitted, but that a neighbor at 4 Styles Lane had not been properly noticed. She described the letter sent by the applicant as insufficient.

Ms. Destefanis stated that the Commission should not proceed, due to the improper notice.

- ** MS. WILSON MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE THE HEARING TO APRIL 13, 2010.**
**** MR. BONSAUGUE SECONDED.**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Destefanis suggested that Mr. Valadares work with Ms. Cherichetti to modify a sufficient letter for notice.

- b) **#S10-366 – 105 Richards Avenue – The Carriage House Association, Inc. –**
Corrective action landscaping in and adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Destefanis opened the public hearing.

Mr. Cherichetti took the roll call and read the legal notice.

Mr. Stefan Marquart described the landscaping work, stating that 145 plants had been put in as a buffer zone and that 366 plants were being put in now. He detailed the types of plantings, pointing out that the selections would nurture wildlife. Mr. Marquart also said that a natural grass seed was being planted. He described how the rocks in the buffer zone would create a distinction between the property and the wetland. He said that the plants were ready to go in at any time and that the work would take two to three days. He clarified that Twombly Nursery would put the plantings in place and that The Carriage Houses' landscaper would plant them per se.

Ms. Destefanis opened the proceedings to public comment.

Mr. Leonard D'Andrea emphasized that the demarcation feature was important to maintain the distinction between the property and the wetland. He also suggested a surety for the project. Mr. D'Andrea also noted that a split rail fence, which had been left in place to demarcate the property, was not on the plan but should also be maintained.

Mr. Evan McGee, 97 Richards Avenue, said that he was on the Board of Directors of the Mallards Landing Condominiums and described his concerns. He said that a show/cause order had cited the removal of 297 shrubs, but that the applicant was planting 366 shrubs. He also addressed the property damage and significant expense due to the recent storm. Mr. McGee suggested that a condition be included to maintain the landscaping and manage damage in the future. He also pointed out the importance of protecting the stream from a change in flow or other impact.

Mr. Marquart added that an application had been submitted for adding Arborvitae trees and that the new plantings would be installed outside the wetland, within the buffer. He also confirmed that the split rail fence allowed wildlife through, but still functioned to demarcate the property.

Mr. Bonsangue asked about the location of the buffer. Ms. Cherichetti showed the buffer on a map. She added that the applicant was proposing a very good density of shrubs. She said that a wetland pocket had been mapped. She also noted that the original special permit would require a designated recreation area and cautioned the Commission that Zoning could require a certain area of the property to be a recreation area.

Mr. Caputo stated that the Commission might lack the jurisdiction to protect the condominiums from future monetary damage. He suggested that the applicant contact an attorney on the matter.

Ms. Destefanis asked if the Commission needed to discuss the landscaping and the recreation area with the Planning or Zoning Commissions. Ms. Cherichetti suggested that a condition be added to allow for flexibility.

**** MR. CAPUTO MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.
** MS. WILSON SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. CAPUTO MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.
** MR. BONSANGUE SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Charlene Smith.

