

**CITY OF NORWALK
INLAND WETLAND AGENCY
MAY 11, 2010**

PRESENT: Karen Destefanis, Chair (6:08); D. Seeley Hubbard; Anne Cagnina;
Matthew Caputo; Ed Holowinko; Lou Bonsangue

STAFF: Alexis Cherichetti, Senior Environmental Officer

OTHERS: Mrs. Vallejo; Dean Martin; Bill Andriopoulos

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hubbard called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Cherichetti called the roll.

III. RECEIPT & DISCUSSION

- a) **#S10-373 – 230 New Canaan Avenue – Orchard Lakes Condominium Association -**
Landscaping in and adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti noted that the applicant was not yet present.

Mr. Hubbard moved to table the receipt of the application until the applicant arrived.

IV. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION

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

Ms. Cherichetti recapped the opening and closing of the public hearing.

Ms. Destefanis noted that she was able to listen to the full recording of the hearing and was wholly familiar with the record.

Ms. Cagnina expressed concern that the proposed mitigation plan was vague and lacked enough planting restoration.

Mr. Caputo agreed and noted that he felt that the proposed mitigation measures were minimal and that the applicant and his consultant lacked credibility regarding their reasons for the doing a minimal amount of work.

Ms. Destefanis stated that she did not believe that there was not any restoration proposed. She added that the minimal mitigation activities proposed were not adequate to mitigate the impacts from the activities already done without a permit.

Mr. Hubbard noted that he thought that full restoration was warranted, and that the applicant provided no compelling reason not to more fully restore the wetland and watercourse.

- ** **MR. CAPUTO MADE A MOTION TO DENY THE PERMIT APPLICATION WITH THE REASONS STATED IN THE MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSION DATED MAY 10, 2010 FROM ALEXIS CHERICHETTI.**
- ** **MR. HUBBARD SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** **THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Cherichetti noted that the applicant for the item under Receipt had arrived.

III. RECEIPT & DISCUSSION

- a) **#S10-373 – 230 New Canaan Avenue – Orchard Lakes Condominium Association -**
Landscaping in and adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Rob Nute, owner of Organic Design LLC, gave a summary of the proposal for the applicant. He stated that the goal of the proposal was to regain control of the overgrown watercourse buffer. He stated that the proposed activities would involve hand-cutting and pulling of non-native plants and the replacement of herbaceous native plants in the buffer area.

Mr. Nute pointed to photographs, submitted as part of the application material, of the existing buffer area. He noted that he had performed a winter stem count of woody plants, and that the results of the inventory were in the submitted application materials.

There was discussion regarding the replanting plan, proposed re-seeding, and herbicide application following questions from Commissioners.

IV. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION (CONTINUED)

- b) **#S10-369 – 73 Strawberry Hill Avenue – Maplewood at Strawberry Hill, LLC –**
Renovation of existing building to construct assisted housing complex with associated regulated activities adjacent to a watercourse and wetlands

The Commissioners briefly discussed the public hearing which opened and closed at the last meeting.

- ** **MS. CAGNINA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PERMIT APPLICATION WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION IN THE MEMORANDUM DATED MAY 10, 2010 FROM ALEXIS CHERICHETTI.**
- ** **MR. CAPUTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** **THE MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (HOLOWINKO).**

- c) **#S10-371 – 4 Klim Lane – Vallejo –** Corrective Action clear-cutting, removal of vegetation, filling, grading and construction in and adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti informed the Commission that neither Mr. Vallejo nor Mr. Danzer were able to attend, but noted that Ms. Vallejo was present.

Ms. Destefanis referred to the preliminary review letter to Mr. Vallejo from Ms. Cherichetti. She noted that she had two concerns. She thought that the applicant should provide an updated

survey, not just a compilation map. She also noted that the depth of material deposited over the wetland remained unknown and that perhaps it would be in the best interest of all parties to have a third-party consultant come in to perform a soil survey and include information regarding the depth of recent fill material.

There was some discussion of the information needed to review the application by the Commissioners. Ms. Cherichetti agreed to send the applicant a new letter detailing the Commission's requests.

- d) **#S10-372 – 2 Newtown Court – J.V. Mac Construction** – Construction of a pool, patio, cabana and relocation of on-site septic system adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti noted that the applicant had provided revised plans at the last meeting. There was some discussion regarding the frequency of backwashing and draining the pool filter and pool. Mr. Andriopoulos, of ADA, provided a copy of the pool filter brochure.

The location of the actual flood zone was discussed. Mr. Martin of Grumman Engineering stated that he could use information from the City's Stony Brook study to determine the actual elevation.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) April 27, 2010

Ms. Destefanis made note of some minor typographical errors.

- ** **MR. CAPUTO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**
- ** **MR. BONSAQUE SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VIII. COMMENTS OF STAFF

a) Compliance Summary

Ms. Cherichetti said that there was not a summary tonight.

b) Report of Senior Environmental Officer

Ms. Cherichetti noted that the CT DEP was considering reclassification of the groundwater classification for an approximately six (6) acre portion of Norwalk in the vicinity of Manresa Island. She explained the potential impacts of the reclassification, noting that due to the proximity of the area to Long Island Sound any impacts would be minimal.

Ms. Destefanis concurred that the proposed reclassification made sense due to the location of the area, the lack of any drinking water supply wells in the area, and the way that the State's remediation standards work.

IX. COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

a) Report of Commission Chair

There were none.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. CAGNINA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

