

CITY OF NORWALK
CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLAND AGENCY
June 28, 2022

PRESENT: John Moeling, Chair; Matt Pentz; Cheryl Brown; Jennifer Balliett; Matt Merluzzi;
Kathryn Knight

STAFF: Alexis Cherichetti, Sr. Environmental Officer

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Moeling called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. It should be noted that this meeting was held on Zoom.com with all participants calling in, separately.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Cherichetti called the roll.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

IV. RECEIPT & DISCUSSION

a) #S22-601 – 198 West Norwalk Road – Baker – Corrective Action removal of vegetation of a slope adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Bruce Baker, property owner and applicant, described the history of his property and the recent activities. Referring to the submitted site plan, he described the area where he had been maintaining the slope, but this year the maintenance had been more aggressive. He described the existing vegetation and showed multiple photographs of the rear yard.

Ms. Knight noted periwinkle was not a native plant and she was concerned about the topping of the trees. There was extended discussion regarding the keeping the sightlines from the house and the allowance for maintenance activities within the buffer.

V. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION I

a) #S22-596 – 75 Witch Lane – FC Engineering LLC – Dredging of existing pond in and adjacent to wetlands and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti stated she is working on finding an outside consultant to review the wetland impacts.

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Mr. Pentz asked if the presentation shown during receipt of the application could be added to the webpage.

b) #S22-599 – 20 Lancaster Drive – Goldman – Dredge pond in and adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti reviewed the application and the information submitted and information still needed.

Mr. Goldman submitted cross-sections with some modifications and explained that the contractor hired to do the 1993 dredging did not follow the site plan.

Ms. Knight stated she needed more information regarding the proposed dam reconstruction including the construction type, the height, and more information about the structure in general. Mr. Goldman stated it would be about two feet above the waterline and the construction material would depend on which contractor he hired.

Ms. Cherichetti noted the site plan specifically excluded work in the area of the dam.

Mr. Pentz stated that if dam work was proposed, he would need to see details and see the activity on the plan.

Ms. Brown stated she considered the application incomplete without a wetland delineation by a soil scientist. She stated an engineer was needed to propose a dam.

Ms. Knight asked about a maintenance plan for the pond and dam. Mr. Goldman reviewed the history of the pond and thought the proposed dredging would last about 25 years.

Mr. Moeling noted they did not know what the dam would do to the lateral extent of the ponded area and was concerned about impacts upstream and downstream.

***** MS. BROWN ANNOUNCED SHE WOULD NEED TO LEAVE THE MEETING (7:20PM).**

There was discussion regarding the access to the pond and the fill area. It was noted the machinery would drive across the pond to get to the fill area adjacent to the house. Mr. Goldman described the areas that would be disturbed during the dredging, but these differed from what was shown on the plan.

Mr. Moeling asked if alternatives had been considered. Mr. Goldman noted he met with one contractor that would do the work without permits and another wanted to use hydro-dredging. He added the proposed activities appear to come with unquantified environmental risks. He stated the application needed a professional opinion regarding wetland and watercourse impacts.

Mr. Pentz concurred with Mr. Moeling and added that a wetland assessment was needed. Mr. Goldman noted he is just proposing the same thing as in 1992.

Ms. Cherichetti summarized that the Agency members were indicating the application was currently incomplete and needed a wetland delineation and a wetland/watercourse assessment and impact analysis. She noted the application fee had not yet been remitted.

c) #S22-600 – 22 Shirley Street – City of Norwalk DPW – Removal and replacement of drainage pipe and catch basin in and adjacent to wetlands and watercourses

Mr. Pizighelli and Ms. Valadares from the Department of Public Works were present.

Mr. Moeling noted photos of the site had been added to the webpage and he asked if there was the need for any additional discussion. Hearing none, he proposed to approve the application.

***** MR. MOELING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION.**

***** MS. BALLIETT SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d) #S19-546A – 10 Willard Road – Willard Road LLC – Modification of Permit to install culvert pipe, replace headwall and install drainage in and adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti displayed photographs of the site completed by Ms. Williams earlier in the week.

Mr. Moeling asked if there were any concerns regarding the proposed work and he asked staff to prepare a memorandum with a possible resolution for approval for the next meeting.

X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) June 14, 2022 meeting minutes

There were a few suggested corrections to the minutes from Mr. Moeling and Ms. Balliett.

***** MR. MOELING MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AMENDED MINUTES.**

***** MS. BALLIETT SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

XI. COMMENTS OF STAFF

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a) Report of the Senior Environmental Officer

Ms. Cherichetti said she had none.

XII. COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

a) Report of the Commission Chair

Mr. Moeling noted this would be his last meeting as Chair and reminded the members there would be the Election of Officers at the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding sending information to all property owners that have land under wetland jurisdiction. Ms. Cherichetti noted they would work on determining the number of mailings involved.

XIII ADJOURNMENT

***** MS. KNIGHT MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

***** MR. MOELING SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.