

**CITY OF NORWALK
CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLAND AGENCY
JANUARY 9, 2024**

PRESENT: Steve Klocke, Chair; Cheryl Brown; Heather Breslin; Matt Pentz

STAFF: Alexis Cherichetti; Amelia Williams

OTHERS: Dean Martin; Brian Carey

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Klocke called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 COMMENT

There were no members of the public who spoke at this time.

IV. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION

a) #S23-626 – 199 Newtown Avenue – Petrucci – Construction of a new single-family residence adjacent to a wetland and a watercourse

Ms. Williams began the presentation by noting that the commissioners should have received her memo. The public hearing had been closed at their December 19th meeting. She explained the changes from the last meeting. There was then a discussion of the resolution which included the addition of the demarcation line to be continuous so there would be no path to the pond.

***** MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS DRAFTED AND EDITED FOR APPLICATION #S23-626.**

***** MS. BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** STEVE KLOCKE; CHERYL BROWN; HEATHER BRESLIN APPROVED.**

***** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

***** MATT PENTZ ABSTAINED.**

Dean Martin thanked the commissioners.

b) #S23-629 – 284 New Canaan Avenue – LandTech – Expansion of parking lot for commercial use adjacent to a watercourse

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Ms. Cherichetti said that she had sent out a draft memo and resolution with conditions. Since it was an intermediate application it did not need a public hearing. She summarized the discussions with the applicant. She then discussed the conditions. There was a discussion about whether there was a landscaping plan. Brian Carey said that there were some generic plants and did not think additional planting would be necessary. He also said he had no issues with any of the conditions. He also noted that there would be another project on this property at which time they would revisit the plantings. There was concern about the removal of the invasive plantings, especially since there were no plantings suggested. Mr. Carey said they could provide a planting plan if the commission was requesting it and would work with staff for something adequate. Ms. Cherichetti made some changes to the draft resolution.

***** MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS DRAFTED AND EDITED FOR APPLICATION #S23-629.**

***** MS. BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** STEVE KLOCKE; CHERYL BROWN; HEATHER BRESLIN APPROVED.**

***** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

***** MATT PENTZ ABSTAINED.**

c) #S23-630 – 5 Nathan Hale Drive – Ritchey – Corrective Action landscaping adjacent to a watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti noted that the applicant was out of the country and requested that this application be tabled until the next meeting.

d) #S23-631 – 207 West Rocks Road – O'Connor – Corrective Action landscaping in and adjacent to a wetland and a watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti said that the applicant would be revising their plans based upon the commissions' feedback at the last meeting. This item was tabled.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) December 19, 2023 meeting minutes

***** MS. BROWN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2023.**

***** MS. BRESLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** STEVE KLOCKE; CHERYL BROWN; HEATHER BRESLIN APPROVED.**

***** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

***** MATT PENTZ ABSTAINED.**

VI. CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Ms. Cherichetti said that she had sent out a preliminary discussion memo to have a 100 ft. upland review area from the wetlands, a change from the current 50 ft. upland review area.

She noted that she had additional changes to the regulations which would align them with the model regulations that the state has put out. One of them was the length of time for a permit which would then align with the state requirements. She asked them to review the red-lined paragraphs. She also attached the process for the review and public hearings and effective date. She also noted that they should define what an emergency is. She discussed what happens in the case of septic repairs in an upland review area. She said she would review the regulations from other towns as to what they do in this situation.

There was a discussion about fees and when they had been revised. Ms. Cherichetti said that they had been revised in 2010. She said that many surrounding towns had only recently begun to revise theirs as well. She explained how she had compared Norwalk's fees to other towns.

There was a discussion about changing the upland review area from 100 ft. to 50ft. Ms. Cherichetti said that Norwalk had not had a defined upland review area until 2005. She noted that sometimes wetlands are not obvious and are only found through the soil profile. She also said that resident education is important. Ms. Cherichetti suggested using social media as opposed to mailers. She would speak with the IT department, as well. There was also a discussion about whether there would be an increase in permits.

VII. COMMENTS OF STAFF

a) Report of the Senior Environmental Officer

Ms. Cherichetti did not have any comments.

VIII. COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

a) Report of the Commission Chair

Mr. Klocke asked if anyone had any names for new commissioners. Ms. Cherichetti said that they could send names to her.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

***** MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**
***** MS. BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
***** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Palmentiero

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