

CITY OF NORWALK
SPECIAL MEETING - CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLAND AGENCY
MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2025

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

STAFF: Amelia Williams

OTHERS: Brian Carey

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Klocke called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. It should be noted that this meeting was held on Zoom.com with all participants calling in, separately.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Williams called the roll.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public that spoke.

IV. RECEIPT & DISCUSSION

There were no applications to be heard.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. #S16-499B – 284 New Canaan Avenue – LandTech for Penna Construction – Corrective Action permit modification to expand extent of previously approved contractor’s yard

Mr. Klocke asked Ms. Williams to summarize new materials received for the acoustical barrier and corrective action work.

Brian Carey began his presentation by showing the commissioners the site plan for the property. He noted that there had been two applications, one of which was resolved at the previous meeting. He gave a brief history of this application. He noted that there is a pending zoning violation. They would restore the yard and not expand it. He gave details on how that would be done. He also discussed the updated plans that had been submitted last week and

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reviewed by Ms. Cherichetti. They were also submitting a zoning application. They are waiting for comments from the city's engineer. They did submit an extension for the public hearing. They would put the property back to the original approval to mitigate the violation.

There was a discussion about the planting plan which included removal of materials in the area and grading it as it was previously, and seeding it with the conservation wildlife mix. They could add a shrub layer.

There was also a discussion about a rectangular area being planted with trees that are native. There was also a review of some aerial photos of the property. There was also a discussion about an erosion plan. Mr. Carey said that a silt fence would be constructed.

Ms. Williams said that since the plans had been received that day, they should leave the public hearing open. She opened the hearing to members of the public who could address the

Peter Wilson, 178 Poconock Trail said that he had sent in some questions earlier in the week which Ms. Williams said they had been shared with the commissioners. He asked whether the work being contemplated would cover all of the violations. He also asked about the timing of the plantings in the violation area.

Alicja Chebeir, 166 Poconock Trail, also wanted to find out the timing of when work would be done.

There were no other members of the public that spoke at the hearing.

At this point, they reviewed the email from Mr. Wilson. Mr. Carey said they would have to restore the area to the 2018 permit. They had been attempting to legalize the expansion of the yard but would no longer be doing that. The only modification would be the drainage. The restoration is a requirement of the notice of violation. He also explained the restoration plan had been voted on by the commission which they would follow. The applicant is working to have it done as soon as possible. He noted that planting would usually begin on April 15 for trees. They would work with conservation department staff on site as well. They were hoping to get the approval on this application so that all work could proceed at the same time.

There was also a discussion about the sound barrier which Mr. Klocke said would be removed, according to plans submitted that day. There was a discussion about the berm. One of Mr. Wilson's questions was for the zoning department staff. Mr. Carey said that the Conservation staff would check the installation of the silt fence, but he would add it to the plans. There was also a discussion about the inspection of the previously installed storm water system. It was noted that corrective action is underway.

There was a discussion about the next steps but they decided to continue this hearing until March 25, 2025. Mr. Carey said that he would be submitting an updated planting plan the following day.

VI. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION

A. #S16-499B – 284 New Canaan Avenue – LandTech for Penna Construction – Corrective Action permit modification to expand extent of previously approved contractor's yard

There was no decision since this matter would be continued until March 25, 2025.

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. February 25, 2025 meeting minutes

*** MR. VINETT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2025 MEETING.

*** MS. BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

*** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.

*** MATT PENTZ ABSTAINED.

VIII. CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Mr. Klocke asked if any commissioners had attended the public session for Manresa Island. Mr. Pentz reported on what he saw. He said that they would be taking input from the public. He said that there is a QR code if anyone wanted to participate in a survey for it.

IX. REPORTS

A. Commission Chair

Mr. Klocke said that he did not have anything to report.

None

B. Senior Environmental Officer

Ms. Williams said that she did not have anything to report.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

***** MR. PENTZ MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**
***** MS. BRESLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
***** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Palmentiero