

COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Wednesday, January 11, 2017
Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Room 1
Minutes of Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Falk von Plachecki, Chairman; Moe Epstein and Sue Bruening; Alternate: Rebecca Meyer and Ericka Fuery; Board of Selectmen Liaison, John Jones; Staff: Jay Gigliotti, Wetlands Enforcement Officer; Randall Benson, Town Planner and Gail Therian, Clerk;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Darrell York, Vice Chairman; Andrew George

A. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman von Plachecki called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. . .

B ADDITIONS TO AGENDA –

J. Gigliotti asked that the following items be added to the agenda: Under “Item I – Enforcements”, Item A – “Prospect Hill Road”; Item B – “82 Davidson Road, Army Corps of Engineers”; and under “Item J – “Correspondence” – Item A – “2017 Open Space Wetlands Acquisition Grant Endorsement”.

So moved, by M. Epstein, seconded by S. Bruening. **Motion carried unanimously**

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2016 Regular Meeting

Motion by M. Epstein, seconded by R. Meyer to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting as presented.
Abstentions: E. Fuery Epstein All others in favor **Motion carried.**

D. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

E. PENDING APPLICATIONS - None

F. NEW APPLICATIONS – None

G. OLD BUSINESS – None

H. NEW BUSINESS – None

I. ENFORCEMENTS –

A. Prospect Hill Road

J. Gigliotti told the Commission that the Town Engineer brought the clearing activity on Prospect Hill Road to his attention. He visited the site with the Town Engineer and found that work had been done in the Upland Review Area and within the limits of the stream. In addition to the clearing in the Upland Review Area, the property owner spread a three inch thick layer of wood chips over all the disturbed soils to prevent erosion. He issued a Notice of Violation on January 11, 2017. He explained the location of the site and said that the property owner previously had been before the Commission regarding the future development of the land for a single family home. He showed pictures of the rocks that were placed in the stream as a crossing area for a machine and the clearing in the Upland Review Area. He has spoken with the property owner and the owner said he would remove the rocks from the stream. J. Gigliotti said he feels that there was not a significant impact to the wetlands.

Kyle Stark, property owner, said that he had met with James Sipperly, Soil Scientist and a representative from CT DEEP regarding the work he wanted to do. He was under the impression that no permits were required. The work was to cut wood on the property for his own personal use.. He said he will do all that is necessary to rectify this situation. Discussion followed. The Commission told Mr. Stark that a permit application must be submitted for this clearing and that he should work with J. Gigliotti regarding the application, removal of rocks and the erosion and sediment control.

B. 82 Davidson Road – Army Corps of Engineers Correspondence

Chairman von Plachecki said that there was no correspondence from the Army Corps of Engineers from July to November 9, 2016 regarding this site. A letter was sent on November 9, 2016 to the property owners with a copy sent to J. Gigliotti, Wetlands Enforcement Officer, which he received on November 15, 2016. This letter was not discussed at the December 14,

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2016 meeting as J. Gigliotti was unable to attend this meeting. There has been no indication that the Hatches, owners of 82 Davidson Road, have complied with the request. He reviewed the dates the various work will need to be completed. A discussion was held regarding the revoking of the existing permit from the Commission but it was decided that the Commission will wait for further correspondence from the Army Corps of Engineers.

J. CONSERVATION –

A. 2017 Open Space Wetlands Acquisition Grant Endorsement

Chairman von Plachecki recused himself. M. Epstein took over as Chairman.

J. Gigliotti told the Commission that the Town is considering purchasing two pieces of property in the River Road/Route 149 area totaling 11 acres. He explained the location and why the preservation of these properties would be good for the Town. He said that there are still several details to be worked out before the Grant could be submitted, but he would need the Commission's endorsement if Staff does submit this Grant.

Motion by E. Fuery, seconded by S. Bruening to endorse the proposed acquisition of the two parcels as per the DEEP Open Space Wetlands Acquisition Grant. **Motion carried unanimously**

F. von Plachecki returned as Chairman.

K. CORRESPONDENCE – None

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by S. Bruening, seconded by M. Epstein to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

Gail N. Therian, Clerk