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COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Room 1

Minutes of Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Falk von Plachecki; Chairman, Darrell York (7:04), Sue Bruening and Rebecca Meyer; Jay Gigliotti, Wetlands Enforcement Officer; Kamey Cavanaugh, Clerk
Members Absent

A. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman von Plachecki called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - *Motion made by S. Bruening to add agenda item H) b. Shane Duffy, 19 Falls Circle. Seconded by R. Meyer. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.*

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- *Motion made by R. Meyer to approve the May 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by S. Bruening. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.*

D. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

E. PENDING APPLICATIONS –

A. W2018-3024- Otto Walter- Applicant / Owner, 7 Ivy Court, Assessors Map 11-00 Lot 011-000, proposed new 24'X36' garage within 75' Upland Review Area. DRD 05/18/18

J Gigliotti reported to the commission the applicants surveyor has not had a chance to revise the plans therefore the applicant is requesting to table the application until July.

Motion made by S. Bruening to table application W2018-3024. Seconded by D. York. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

F. NEW APPLICATIONS - None

G. OLD BUSINESS- None

H. NEW BUSINESS-

a. Pickerel Lake Association- CT DEEP Drawdown Request

J Gigliotti reported the Pickerel Lake Association has contacted the commission requesting a drawdown of the lake for the Winter 2018-2019 season in order to control

the invasive weeds, in addition allow property owners the opportunity to maintain retaining walls and docks.

Motion made by D. York to endorse the request from Pickerel Lake Association- CT DEEP Drawdown Request. Seconded by R. Meyer. All members voted in favor. Motion Carried

b. Shane Duffy, 19 Falls Circle

J Gigliotti reported to the agency of this property located on a cul-de-sac off of Bulkely Hill Road. Mr. Duffy is concerned about the overgrowth and shallowing of the water in the pond and would like some direction from the commission as to the steps that he would need to take to be permitted to dredge out the area in front of his property. The pond is privately owned by numerous property owners that reside on the pond. The commission suggested Mr. Duffy make contact with the neighboring property owners to see if they are also interested in this process being done at their locations as well. The commission could then review an application for the entire pond as they are concerned as to what would happen to neighboring properties if Mr. Duffy was the only one on the pond to dredge. In addition, the applicant should contact a soil scientist to provide a report showing where the wetlands are along the property and an explanation on what type of impact this might have on the pond.

I. ENFORCEMENT-

a. Red Schoolhouse Road

J Gigliotti reported on numerous complaints that have been received from the neighboring property of 27 Red Schoolhouse Road expressing concerns of ATV's and dirt bikes being used in the wetlands area. After a visit to the property it was noted these activities were in fact taking place. The property owner of 27 Red Schoolhouse was notified of this violation and agreed to cease these types of activities. Since then the neighbor continues to submit complaints. Further inspections have indicated no negative impacts are occurring within the wetlands. The commission directed Mr. Gigliotti to communicate to the complainant of the numerous site visits that have taken place and the findings are that the current use of the ATV's is no longer causing environmental or wetland impacts.

J. CONSERVATION-

a. CT DEEP RTP- Trail Grand & National Trail Day

J Gigliotti reported to the commission that in 2015 he wrote and was awarded a grant to design a link trail connecting to existing trails resulting in 90 miles. Part of the grant was to promote trail use and physical activity within the State of Connecticut. To accomplish this, Mr. Gigliotti partnered with Chatham Health District and together developed a brochure of the trail resources in the 6 towns that fall in the Health District; Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Portland, Hebron and Marlborough. (See Attached) In

addition, they participated in 6 guided hikes, one hike in each town. The flyer has been very well received and can be obtain in the Planning Zoning offices in Town Hall.

b. Salmon River Watershed Partnership upcoming events

The Salmon River Watershed includes 9 towns and has quite a few upcoming summer events. One particular event will be taking place on Saturday June 16th, from 10-12pm on the Bulkeley Hill Nature Preserve. This property was purchased by the Colchester Landtrust. This event is an amphibian assessment and Mystic Aquarium is sponsoring the event.

c. Green Burial Grounds

Connecticut Green Burial Grounds Association is a 5013C organization dedicated to establishing green burial grounds in Connecticut. Currently there is only one of these types of cemeteries, located in Danbury CT. A green burial ground cemetery is one without any embalming, varnish on coffins, steel or concrete. J Gigliotti was contacted to discuss the possibilities of one coming to Colchester. They look for 10-100 acres of land without a lot of wetlands. Their intent is to make the land Open Space, would be deed restricted, and open to the public.

d. Easement Inspection

J Gigliotti is in the process of visiting the conservation easements to inspect for proper markings. Recently Mr. Gigliotti was accompanied by a boy scout who was working on a step badge and with his help, was able to visit the Shadbush, Piekarz, Winterberry Drive, for inspections.

e. McDonald Road Land Purchase

A sign has been placed on the additional land that was purchase on McDonald Road and recently made part of the Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Park. The sign is located at the entrance to the 10 acres on Dutton Road.

K. CORRESPONDENCE-

a. Wetland Administrative Permits Issued

J Gigliotti reported to the commissioners of the 13 Authorized Agent Approvals that have been issued since January 1, 2018.

b. Staff updates & other correspondence

Upton Road, a commercial addition to Alpha Q is moving forward which includes parking and drainage.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by D. York to adjourn the June 13, 2018 Colchester Conservation Commission Meeting at 7:54PM. Seconded by R. Meyer. All members voted in Favor. Motion Carried
Chairman von Plachecki adjourned the June 13, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting at 7:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Kamey Cavanaugh, Recording Clerk