



MINUTES

April 11, 2013

PRESENT: Frank Wong, Chair, Elizabeth Craig, John Hall, Dennis Delaney, Elisa Pollino

ALSO PRESENT: Patricia Sesto, Director, Environmental Affairs; Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary; Kate Throckmorton, Environmental Land Solutions; Simon and Jessica Adams, homeowners

ABSENT: Nick Lee (notified of intended absence)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Wong called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. WET#2166(S) – ASML – 77 Danbury Road – widening of the Norwalk River and relocation of existing pedestrian bridge

Chairman Wong opened the public hearing. Ms. Sesto stated that the applicant has requested that this item be continued to April 25, 2013.

Mr. Wong MOVED to ACCEPT the request to table the application, SECONDED by Mr. Hall and CARRIED 5-0-0.

B. WET#2172(S) – ADAMS – 250 Grumman Hill Road – second story addition including B100a

Ms. Sesto read the documents into the record. Mr. Wong, Ms. Craig, Mr. Hall, Ms. Pollino and Mr. Delaney indicated they visited the site.

Ms. Throckmorton described the property as a one-acre parcel consisting of half an acre of wetlands. She stated that the high point of the property is to the north, with Grumman Hill Road to the south. The owners bought the home two years ago and are proposing a second story addition over the garage to extend the master bedroom, with no additional bedrooms. The B100a code-complying system is required as the force main crosses the wetlands.

Ms. Throckmorton stated there is minimal foundation work with approximately 25 cu. yds. of fill being excavated for footings. Ms. Throckmorton stressed that the current septic system is in good working order. The new leaching fields are proposed on the western portion of the property. The access for this installation is difficult on the lot however, the neighbors have granted permission to use their land as the access way. This also avoids the need to remove any significant trees.

Ms. Throckmorton described the new force main which is proposed to loop around the eastern side of the house, avoiding disturbance to the canopy. Most of the installation is in an already disturbed area, which is why this option is preferred.

There were two alternatives provided for the wetland crossing of the force main. The first alternative crosses the wetland at its narrowest point, but in doing so the line is long and would create the need for more trenching and tree removal, which is not desired. The second alternative runs along the west side of the house. This has the shortest length for the force main, but has the longest run within the wetland. This alternative would also require hand digging as machine access is limited.

Ms. Throckmorton noted that the wood chips in the front of the house and back by the swing set will be removed. The homeowner will replant the area in the back of the home which was cleared. A discussion ensued about the future use of the neighbor's property if the current neighbors sell their property. It was confirmed that if the proposed construction access changes for any reason, the permit would be invalid, and they would need to come back with their adjusted plan for approval. Ms. Throckmorton confirmed that the work could be done in one day and would include minimal disturbance.

In response to questions pertaining to the cleared wetland to the rear of the home, Ms. Throckmorton confirmed that the homeowners are willing to correct the violation that existed when they bought the house by realigning the boulders to the wetland edge, bring the play structure out, and plant 2-3 trees in the area.

Ms. Pollino inquired how deep the trench will be. Ms. Throckmorton responded they will dig 36 in. to 48 in. for the force main, but that it would be very narrow and completed in one day. She also confirmed that it will be double-sleeved. Ms. Sesto stated that she assumed the stream dries up in June. Ms. Throckmorton confirmed this and added that there are provisions provided for the stream to be diverted by pumping it.

Ms. Sesto asked what distance is required from the force main to the well. Ms. Throckmorton indicated that it was approved at the proposed distance. Mr. Hall confirmed the same size field is being utilized with the same capacity.

Ms. Sesto inquired about the roof leader at the southwest corner that drains to the stream in the same pipe as the sump pump contrary to what her report states. Ms. Throckmorton stated that she will confirm that they daylight at the house and sheet flow over the property.

With no further questions or comments, Mr. Wong closed the public hearing.

III. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE REVIEWED

- A. WET#2172(S) – ADAMS – 250 Grumman Hill Road** – second story addition including B100a

Mr. Wong MOVED to APPROVE WET#2172, with the General and normal Special Conditions and the additional Special Conditions that they will remove the wood chips in the front and back of the property, relocate the boulders, provide a revised mitigation plan with additional trees noted, and repair the wrongfully created lawn, all by date certain, daylight the roof leaders, use their preferred plan, and the neighbor access would be revisited if there is a new owner at the time of construction, SECONDED by Mr. Delaney and CARRIED 5-0-0.

IV. APPLICATIONS TO BE ACCEPTED

- A. WET#2175(I) – SULLIVAN – 491 Nod Hill Road** – bedroom addition including B100a

- B. WET#2176(S) – SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME – 329, 331 & 345 Belden Hill Road and 201 Wolfpit Road** – install extension of town sewer within an upland review area

Ms. Sesto confirmed that the Sullivan Application is coming back to the commission as the homeowner's testimony at the hearing was incorrect. She noted that the filing fee was waived per the direction of the commission.

Mr. Delaney MOVED to ACCEPT both new applications, SECONDED by Mr. Wong and CARRIED 5-0-0.

V. APPROVED MINOR ACTIVITIES - None

VI. CORRESPONDENCE - None

VII. OTHER APPROPRIATE BUSINESS

A. Violations

1. Kevin Smith & Carol McDonnell-Smith – 281 Sturges Ridge Road

Ms. Sesto stated that she happened to notice a violation in progress at this property when she was inspecting the permitted work in the neighborhood. There were big trees being removed from a regulated area in front of the house.

2. Tim & Kara Golden – 269 Sturges Ridge Road

Ms. Sesto confirmed that there was a limit of lawn required with boulder demarcation on this property in association with a wetland permit. The boulders have been moved back to create a larger lawn area. The Golden's have hired a landscape firm to assist with the corrective action and they have requested an extension on the deadline for the application from April 24th to May 22nd. Mr. Wong confirmed that they have stopped the work and the tree company has been notified as well. The commission agreed to provide more time for the applicant.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 28, 2013

Mr. Wong MOVED to APPROVE the minutes as drafted from March 28th, SECONDED by Ms. Craig and CARRIED 4-0-1 with Mr. Hall abstaining as he was absent.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Wong MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:05 p.m., SECONDED by Mr. Hall, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Larkin
Recording Secretary