



MINUTES

October 22, 2015

PRESENT: Liz Craig (Acting Chair), Tom Burgess, Nick Lee, Rick Stow, Mark Andrews

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Environmental Analyst; Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary; James Hutton, GZA GeoEnvironmental; Chris Soroka, Eversource; Frederick English, Property Owner; Mike Lindberg, Norwalk River Valley Trail; Tom Thurkettle, Dept. of Public Works

ABSENT: John Hall, Dan Falta (notified of intended absences)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Craig called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. WET#2344(S) – EVERSOURCE – 658 Danbury Road – remediation of environmentally impacted soils (cont.)

Mr. Conklin stated he received an email from Casey Healy of Gregory & Adams confirming that the additional landscaping being requested is the responsibility of Eversource, not his client, Mike Lindquist.

Mr. Hutton passed out new information including a one-foot contour topographic map that was requested at the last hearing. He confirmed Ryan & Faulds completed the new survey which includes the floodway. He indicated that the majority of their remediation is outside of the floodway and confirmed they will pull the soil back from the toe of the slope and work backwards to minimize the activity in this area.

Mr. Hutton stated that there will be erosion controls around the entire excavated area for the digging which will take about a week to conclude. He then noted that the area will be seeded, covered and stabilized within 2 weeks. Mr. Hutton confirmed they will be exposing natural wet soils under the historic fill and DEEP requires sampling to confirm the impact has been completely removed. He indicated the area is open for as little time as possible and the goal is that no backfill will go into the floodway. They intend to place layers on clean compacted fill to create the slope so the compaction is done properly. They will include erosion blankets on the top soil, and the area is seeded with a conservation mix for rapid establishment of native grasses. The applicant has included 3 additional native shade trees to replace the two trees being removed

as part of the grubbing.

Ms. Craig inquired about what they will do with the native soils when the area is opened. Mr. Hutton responded that the sampling does not stop while they are digging. He stated that they test the soil and fill it very quickly. Mr. Conklin confirmed that everything he questioned from the last hearing has been properly addressed.

Mr. Andrews asked how long the haybales stay in place. Mr. Hutton responded that it could be a year as they wait until the grass grows before removal. Ms. Craig noted there is an area in the southeast corner where the floodline juts out, and there is a natural depression where she would like to see something planted. She added there is pachysandra there so it must have been shaded previously so a few trees would be useful. Mr. Conklin confirmed that he wanted a letter from the engineer attesting to the fact that no material will go into the floodway.

With no further questions or comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Lee MOVED to APPROVE WET#2344, with the General and normal Special Conditions and the additional Special Conditions that a tree be planted in the southeast corner, and a letter from the engineer be submitted attesting to no material was placed in the floodway, SECONDED by Mr. Burgess and CARRIED 5-0-0.

B. WET#2350(S) – SPIEWAK – 22 Old Wagon Road – “emergency” septic replacement

Mr. Conklin confirmed this application received a temporary permit based on the emergency nature of the failure.

With no questions or comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Lee MOVED to APPROVE WET#2350, SECONDED by Mr. Burgess and CARRIED 5-0-0.

III. APPLICATIONS TO BE REVIEWED

A. WET#2355(I) – HAGGERTY – 157 Huckleberry Hill Road – “emergency” septic replacement

Mr. Conklin confirmed this applicant received a temporary permit based on the emergency nature of the failure.

Mr. Lee MOVED to APPROVE WET#2355, SECONDED by Mr. Andrews and CARRIED 5-0-0.

B. WET#2359(I) – ENGLISH – 189 Westport Road – “corrective action” for above ground swimming pool and topping of trees in a regulated area

Mr. English passed out copies of his survey to the commissioners. He noted that he is adding a safety fence around the pool to satisfy a building requirement. Mr. Lee asked where the fence is going. Mr. English responded it would be 1 foot off the pool where the stones are laying.

Mr. Lee MOVED to APPROVE WET#2359, SECONDED by Mr. Burgess and CARRIED 5-0-0.

C. WET#2360(I) – TOWN OF WILTON/NRVT – Horseshoe Pond Park – construction of multi-use trail through Horseshoe Park

Mr. Lindberg stated he was the Wilton representative for the Norwalk River Valley Trail. He explained that the Friend of Norwalk River Valley Trail consist of 5 towns from Norwalk to Danbury where they are building a 38-mile multi-use trail. He confirmed they completed the 1.5 miles of the Wilton Loop on the western side of Route 7 with private funding. Mr. Lindberg confirmed that he is working with the Department of Public Works to leverage their projects with the trail building.

Mr. Lindberg stated the existing trail at Horseshoe Pond that follows the southern perimeter will be improved with stable layers and a 10 foot width. He confirmed fill will be brought in for the steepest area so that it is ADA Compliant. Mr. Lindberg stated there will be minimal disturbance to the area and safety and aesthetics is paramount. He added that they are suggesting the area adjacent to the pond be utilized as a learning area for science studies.

Ms. Craig asked if they are crossing water. Mr. Thurkettle responded there is an existing culvert they will cross. Mr. Lindberg confirmed the Norwalk River Valley Trail is being endorsed by the Fairfield County Board of Realtors as reports have confirmed homes are worth 10% more when they are near the trail.

Mr. Andrews indicated that he walked the site prior to the meeting and was concerned about the remoteness of the crosswalk. Mr. Lindberg stated they could increase visibility at this location with lights and signs much like the crossing just installed on Sharp Hill Road. Mr. Andrews also inquired about the trees that are flagged on the property. Mr. Conklin confirmed those trees were slated to be removed with the original proposal but this new plan before the commission preserves those trees. Mr. Conklin added that there are dead shrubs that will be removed to improve the view to the pond.

Mr. Andrews asked about the mowed trail just to the right of the proposed trail. Mr. Conklin advised this is an area that the town reserves to do work on the pond. Mr. Thurkettle explained that the concrete area filled with water was an old pool that has been filled. Mr. Lindberg confirmed they can install a split rail fence to prohibit pedestrians from going to that area.

Ms. Craig asked about the timetable for this portion of the trail. Mr. Lindberg responded they will complete the work this winter.

Mr. Lee MOVED to APPROVE WET#2360, SECONDED by Mr. Andrews and CARRIED 5-0-0.

IV. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE ACCEPTED

A. WET#2363(S) – 195 RANGE ROAD, LLC – 195 Range Road – demolish existing dwelling and construct new home with associated activities within an upland review area

Mr. Conklin advised that this application was withdrawn due to the cost of the application fee.

Mr. Conklin advised that there have been several conversations among applicant agents regarding the Wetland Application Fees that have been approved and in place since September 1, 2013. He confirmed the application fees cover staff time, site inspections, scoping meetings that take place as well as compliance inspections and legal notices. The commissioners asked staff to obtain information such as how much money the commission has taken in for applications and what happens with the remaining fee.

V. APPROVED MINOR ACTIVITIES

- A. WET#2357(M) – MISCIOSCIA – 25 Ambler Lane** – install generator and propane tanks approximately 70 ft. from wetlands
- B. WET#2354(M) – PARKER – 388 Ridgefield Road** – construction of a carport 15 ft. from wetlands
- C. WET#2356(M) – SCHELLHORN – 109 Whipstick Road** – install shed 80 ft. from wetlands
- D. WET#2358(M) – WICAL – 66 Cedar Road** – install generator 40 ft. from the wetland and above ground propane tank 50 ft. from wetlands
- E. WET#2361(M) – YEAGER – 134 Ridgefield Road** – installation of 10’ x 16’ shed 50 ft. from wetlands

Mr. Conklin briefly reviewed all of the above minor applications that have been approved by staff.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE – None

VII. OTHER APPROPRIATE BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 8, 2015

Mr. Lee MOVED to APPROVE the minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Mr. Burgess, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Burgess MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:49 pm, SECONDED by Mr. Andrews and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Larkin
Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs