



## MINUTES

April 14, 2016

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs; Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary; Susan DiLoreto, Conservation Commissioner

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

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Hall called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

### **II. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **A. WET#2379(S) PREVITE – 64 Musket Ridge Road – “emergency” replacement of failing septic**

Mr. Conklin confirmed the requested soil mapping information has been received from the applicant for this property, and there is no other location where the septic can be placed on the site.

Mr. Lee MOVED to APPROVE WET#2379, SECONDED by Mr. Andrews and CARRIED 5-0-0.

#### **B. WET#2382(S) ASML – 77 Danbury Road – construction of a 3-story employee parking garage 90 ft. from a wetland and repaving existing parking area 4 ft. from a wetland**

Mr. Conklin confirmed the applicant has requested a continuance of the Public Hearing to enable the check for the third party reviewer to be received by the town.

### **III. APPLICATIONS TO BE REVIEWED**

#### **A. WET#2384(I) TOWN OF WILTON – Schenck’s Island – restoration of a town park**

All commissioners confirmed they have visited the site.

Mr. Conklin explained the plan of restoration at Schenck’s Island with tree and invasive removal

and replanting. He showed where a River Birch grove is being proposed and the renovated lawn area. Mr. Conklin read a memo from the Conservation Commission where a request to add sedges and rushes to the areas that are slated to be opened up for enjoyment from the sidewalk and River Road.

Mr. Conklin confirmed there is an anonymous donor for the plant materials and another donor is paying for the tree removals that are being reviewed by the Town's Tree Warden, Paul Young. The Department of Public Works has agreed to take care of the woody debris removal and chipping. Wood chips will be utilized for mulching the River Birch grove. The Parks & Recreation Department has agreed to complete the installation of the plants and trees and the watering once the plantings are completed. Mr. Conklin also confirmed that he has received approval from the CT DEEP to use the water from the Norwalk River to water these new plantings possibly utilizing a submersible pump with sprinklers.

Mr. Conklin confirmed that some residents have asked if a brick walkway could be installed but the walkway is not planned to be installed at this time. Mr. Conklin also confirmed that the picnic tables will be pinned down so they do not shift in the event of a flood.

Mr. Conklin showed where the windows are being proposed for aesthetic enjoyment of the river from the road. He indicated these areas are currently full of pricker bushes and the arborist is ensuring that they are only removing trees that will not affect the river bank and shade for the river. The Conservation Commission's request for sedges and rushes was well-received by the commission to help with the buffer. Mr. Conklin also noted the area by the bridge is a tangled mess and will be cleared and replaced with Variegated Dogwoods and Pussy Willows.

Mr. Conklin showed where 100 Ferns are proposed in between the River Birch trees for ground cover. The commission suggested planting a Sycamore instead of the current non-native Willow Tree. In response to the monoculture comment from Conservation, the commission decided it was not a bad thing to have 18 River Birch in one area. Ms. Craig asked if there would be enough sunlight and Mr. Lee confirmed there would be enough. Mr. Conklin added that the sedges and rush would be planted when the ground is bare and will be easy to mow.

Mr. Conklin confirmed he walked the site with Paul Young. Mr. Young tagged those trees that the public may want to speak about prior to removal. There were about 25 insignificant and diseased trees that are slated for removal as well.

Ms. Craig asked about the timing and sequence of this project. Mr. Conklin stated it would be done in about two week's time. Ms. Craig asked how we ensure healthy trees that are supposed to remain are not taken down. Mr. Conklin confirmed he is using Chip-Away who he has worked with before and confirmed they are tree savers and will not cut down a tree unnecessarily.

Mr. Conklin showed the GIS Map which indicates the target area for the invasive removal. He also showed where the White Ash removal is proposed and confirmed a riparian buffer would be created with Trout Unlimited possibly donating trees later in the year. Mr. Burgess asked if the river ever gets so low the watering would be an issue. Mr. Conklin responded there are deeper areas that always have water running through. He indicated that he visited the Minanus River to observe the armored bank areas in response to erosion on the banks due to dogs entering and exiting the river. He confirmed Jeff Yates with Trout Unlimited hired a company that designs

river bottoms. This company will be contacted to look at the Norwalk River in the summer.

Ms. Craig asked if the proposed Willow Trees will allow other things to grow. Mr. Lee said it will. Ms. DiLoreto stated these trees are short lived due to their quick growth and thin trunk and branches. Ms. Craig asked that the 36 Japanese Iris's be a switched for a native version. Mr. Conklin stated that the Japanese Iris is aesthetically pleasing and not invasive. Ms. Craig stated that she likes the addition of the ground cover of sedges per the Conservation Commission. Ms. DiLoreto asked Mr. Lee what he thought of the scale of the trees at 7 gallons each. Mr. Lee said this would be good with them planted 20 feet apart.

Mr. Lee MOVED to APPROVE WET#2384, with the General and normal Special Conditions and the additional Special Conditions that the Sycamore Tree and sedges are added to the planting plan, SECONDED by Mr. Stow, and CARRIED 4-0-1 with Mr. Burgess abstaining due to his ties to the Wilton Land Trust.

#### **IV. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE ACCEPTED**

##### **A. WET#2386(S) JONES – 6 Cardinal Lane – “corrective action” to address unauthorized tree and brush removal**

Mr. Conklin noted that the applicant has requested that the application be accepted without the application payment being deposited to allow Ms. Jones to get her financial picture together to ask for a reduction in the corrective action fee. As Ms. Jones was on vacation, she was not able to attend the meeting to discuss this request.

The commission discussed the precedent that would be set if they start accepting applications without payment and decided not to accept the application at this time.

#### **V. APPROVED MINOR ACTIVITIES**

##### **A. WET#2383(M) STEITZ – 131 Olmstead Hill Road – proposed driveway, rear patio, and landscape enhancements**

##### **B. WET#2385(M) KEELER – 150 Cedar Road – “after-the-fact” generator and LP tank 25 ft. from a wetland**

Mr. Conklin provided a brief explanation of this approved applications.

#### **VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **VII. OTHER APPROPRIATE BUSINESS**

##### **A. Violation – CROSS – 105 Old Belden Hill Road – Mr. Conklin stated that he witnessed additional work being done at this property after the cease and desist order was upheld so he is in touch with Town Counsel for next steps.**

##### **B. Violation – LUTHER – 101 Kent Road - Mr. Conklin also confirmed he worked with Mr. Luther, the neighbor being affected from the unauthorized work. Mr. Luther confirmed that he sees large equipment operating on 105 Old Belden Hill Road everyday.**

Mr. Luther most likely has a triangular area where about 6 inches to one foot of woodchips were deposited in the buffer area. Mr. Conklin stated that he thinks Mr. Luther can remove the chips and replant the area once the application approved. Mr. Luther was hoping to use some of the equipment from Mr. Cross's site. Mr. Conklin will issue the Notice of Violation with an Intermediate Level Corrective Action Application required.

Mr. Conklin noted that the silt fencing that was required to be put back on the Cross property is not done. He is waiting for Mr. Cross to have the property line staked as well as the 100 ft. regulated area. Mr. Luther had confirmed with Mr. Conklin that he saw Mr. Cross put in stakes. A soil scientist will need to determine the amount of fill that was deposited on the site at 105 Old Belden Hill Road.

### **C. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2016 & April 7, 2016 Special Meeting**

Mr. Andrews MOVED to APPROVE both sets of minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Mr. Burgess, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

### **VIII. ADJOURN**

Mr. Burgess MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:29 pm, SECONDED by Mr. Andrews and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Liz Larkin  
Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs