

**CITY OF NORWALK
CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLAND AGENCY
FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

PRESENT: Steve Klocke, Chair; Heather Breslin; Matt Pentz, Ed Holowinko

STAFF: Alexis Cherichetti

OTHERS: Mike Pasquarella; Bill Kenny; William O'Connor; Nick Luongo

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Klocke called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. It should be noted that this meeting was held on Zoom.com with all participants calling in, separately.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Cherichetti called the roll.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who spoke at this time.

IV. RECEIPT & DISCUSSION

a) #S24-632 – 35 Weatherbell Drive – Pasquarella – Corrective Action filling and grading in and adjacent to a wetland and a watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti began the presentation by explaining that this was a corrective action filing. She then oriented the commissioners as to the location of the property on an aerial map which included a large wetlands area. They had been delineated by Jay Fein in November. She also noted that the topography had changed in the last few years.

Mike Pasquarella, owner of the property, summarized the letter from Jay Fein. There was also a review of the site plan, including the red area.

Mr. Klocke said that he had read the applicant's letter and would like to work with them. He said they would need documentation that is clear about what was there and would need more details on what was submitted already. Ms. Cherichetti said that there wasn't a survey that had been done recently. One would be necessary for an accurate site plan. She said that Mr. Pasquarella should call the office for assistance. They then discussed the deadlines that are on the application.

V. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION

a) #S23-630 – 5 Nathan Hale Drive – Ritchey – Corrective Action landscaping adjacent to a watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti began the presentation by noting that the application had been received in January. There was now a planting plan.

Bill Kenny continued the presentation by orienting the commissioner as to the location of the property on an aerial map. Mr. Klocke then assisted by sharing the documents in the application which included the site plan for the property. They would be eliminating the lawn. They discussed the planting plan, which Ms. Cherichetti said she approved.

***** MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS DRAFTED FOR APPLICATION #S23-630.**

***** MS. BRESLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** STEVE KLOCKE; HEATHER BRESLIN; MATT PENTZ, ED HOLOWINKO APPROVED.**

***** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

***** NO ONE ABSTAINED.**

b) #S23-631 – 207 West Rocks Road – O’Connor – Corrective Action landscaping in and adjacent to a wetland and a watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti began the presentation with a brief summary of the corrective action. She said that they had met with the owner previously and that this was an application from the applicant, William O’Connor.

Mr. O’Connor explained the project that they had worked on since September 2023. He showed them the pre-existing landscape map. He also showed them photos of the current property. He said that there is deer fencing at the back of the property. There are markings for the survey which Mr. O’Connor does not have. There is a silt fence on the property as well.

Mr. Klocke said that they would review the application one more time. There was a discussion about tree removal. Mr. Klocke gave them some ideas of how he could work with Ms. Cherichetti so they could get the resolution approved. There were also discussions about what to change on the map. Mr. Klocke said that they should add some trees.

Ms. Cherichetti then showed them the aerial map with the rock wall on the property which are updated fairly regularly. There was a further discussion about the rock wall. She then summarized what the commission would like the applicant to do on the application.

VI. BOND RELEASE/REDUCTION REQUESTS

a) #S21-569 – 40 Princes Pine Road – Kelley – Release of Bond (\$3,010) for the installation of an inground pool, with associated grading, landscaping and retaining walls, adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti began the presentation with a summarization of the application and that the plantings have been replaced for over 2 years. The staff recommended release of the bond.

***** MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE BOND FOR APPLICATION #S21-569.**

***** MR. PENTZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** STEVE KLOCKE; HEATHER BRESLIN; MATT PENTZ, ED HOLOWINKO APPROVED.**

***** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

***** NO ONE ABSTAINED.**

b) #S21-573 – 40 Princes Pine Road – Kelley – Release of Bond (\$5,160) for the Corrective Action landscaping adjacent to a wetland and a watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti explained the Corrective action application which was completed two years ago. Staff recommended the release of the bond.

***** MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE BOND FOR APPLICATION #S21-573.**

***** MR. PENTZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** STEVE KLOCKE; HEATHER BRESLIN; MATT PENTZ, ED HOLOWINKO APPROVED.**

***** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

***** NO ONE ABSTAINED.**

At this point, Ms. Cherichetti had a request for a determination for permit need. She noted that this request was about the demolition of the old Double Tree hotel. She explained the delay in the demolition which was that they did not have the required sign offs for the permit. A bond was required for the conservation commission permit. The applicant was requesting to post a portion of the bond which the commissioners agreed to.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) January 9, 2024 meeting minutes

***** MS. BRESLIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2024.**

***** MR. KLOCKE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** STEVE KLOCKE; HEATHER BRESLIN; MATT PENTZ APPROVED.**

***** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

***** ED HOLOWINKO ABSTAINED.**

VIII. CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Ms. Cherichetti discussed amending the regulations to increase the upland review. She said that there were also other edits she would like to recommend and would resend them to the commissioners. She also reminded them of the process to amend them.

IX. COMMENTS OF STAFF

a) Report of the Senior Environmental Officer

Ms. Cherichetti did not have any comments. She said she was going to the Common Council meeting because they were authorizing some grants that she had applied for.

There was also a discussion about Water Street and Resilient CT.

X. COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

a) Report of the Commission Chair

Mr. Klocke asked everyone if they knew anyone who would be interested in becoming a member of the Conservation Commission.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

***** MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

***** MS. BRESLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Palmentiero

Conservation Commission

February 13, 2024

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