CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
MEETING AGENDA
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, 2019
BOARD OF ED SEMINAR ROOM 295 A & B (2ND FL) 501 Kings Highway East

PLEASE NOTE TIME AND LOCATION

Kevin Gumpfer, Chairman (FM)  Catherine O’Donnell, Secretary (FM)
Jennifer Hauhuth (FM)  Elizabeth Jones (FM)  Richard A. D’Amico (FM)
Felicia B. Watson (FM)  Charlie Rowan (FM)  Milan Bull (A)
Nelson North (A)  Brian McCann (A)

FM = Full Member  A = Alternate Member

CALL TO ORDER

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES IF NECESSARY

I. CONSERVATION
   A. Bills and Communications
      1. H. Smith Richardson Conservation Fund
      2. Approval of Conservation Commission Special Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2019
      3. Approval of Secretary’s Bill for June 19, 2019.

II. OLD BUSINESS
   A. Request of Attorney Raymond Rizio on behalf of Scinto Thorpe, LLC to conduct work within the
      Town of Fairfield Open Space area/Pine Creek marsh located at 3 Rugby Road, Map 231 Parcel 9,
      for the purpose of replacing a sanitary sewer line, related to the 185 Thorpe Street development
      project.

   B. Lake Mohegan Master Plan Update (status).

III. NEW BUSINESS
   A.

IV. INFORMATIONAL
   A. Conservation Crew Work Summary

V. OTHER

VI. ADJOURNMENT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2019

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Gumper, Chairman; Jennifer Hauhuth, Vice-Chair; Catherine O’Donnell, Secretary; Felicia Watson; Charlie Rowan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elizabeth Jones; Richard D’Amico; Milan Bull; Brian McCann

ALTERNATES: Nelson North

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Carey, Conservation Director; members of the public

[N.B.: NUMBERING IN THE MINUTES BELOW CORRESPONDS TO THE MEETING AGENDA, AND REFLECTS THE ORDER IN WHICH ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED.]

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kevin Gumper called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES IF NECESSARY: Chairman Gumper appointed Nelson North to sit as a full member.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request of Alan Shepard, P.E., on behalf of Maria Slavin for revised Conservation Easement at 870 Mine Hill Road –

Alan Shepard, professional engineer and agent for the homeowner, gave an overview of the request. The homeowner is proposing a second story addition to the existing house, which would require a staff level wetlands permit due to the storm water detention system that is required. Review of this property by Conservation Department staff found that there had been encroachment into the existing Conservation Easement, prior to the current homeowners purchase of the house. The encroachments consist of a tree house, a dog run, and some walkways. The existing Conservation Easement is problematic in that it is in very close proximity to the northeastern corner of the house. Mr. Shepard is proposing a revision of the Conservation Easement, which will grant an additional easement area in exchange for the area that is in close proximity to the house. The additional area is located on the south part of the property and is about five times the area that is proposed to be removed from the easement. The area will be demarcated with cedar posts. Mr. Carey noted that the existing Conservation Easement was granted as part of a larger subdivision. He stated the location of Conservation Easement is a hardship to the property owner, and any future property owners, because there is no setback to the easement from the corner of the house, noting that current policy would not

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THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

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request a Conservation Easement in such closer proximity to the house. Mr. Carey also noted that the new Conservation Easement would be updated with current language and re-filed.

Felicia Watson moved, and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded to approve the request for a revised Conservation Easement on 870 Mine Hill Road. Motion passed unanimously.

I. CONSERVATION

A. Bills and Communications

1. H. Smith Richardson Conservation Fund – The commission acknowledged the status of the fund. Mr. Carey reported that the property on Oldfield Road was purchased. They are expected to closer on the property at 150 Trail Street shortly, and once that closes, the money will be deposited into the fund.

Felicia Watson recused herself from the following two items regarding the meeting of the May 15, 2019 Special Meeting, stating that she was not present for that meeting.


3. Approval of Secretary’s Bill for May 15, 2019: Catherine O’Donnell moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded to approve the Recording Secretary’s bill of May 15, 2019. Motion passed unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2019-2020 FY Conservation Budget Request (status) – Mr. Carey noted that the budget was approved, which includes an additional full-time laborer position for the Conservation Crew, which had been eliminated in the FY 2017-18 budget. This position is now open to applications from the general public.

B. Hoydens Hill Pollinator Meadow Restoration Project (status) – Mr. Carey reported that a ribbon cutting ceremony was held with the Secrist family two weeks ago. The contractor was there last week mowing the field and they are working on a schedule for the prep work. He anticipates the seeding will begin in the late fall or spring, as there are a couple months of prep work that still needs to be completed.

C. Lake Mohegan Master Plan Update (status) – Mr. Carey reported that he asked Brian Quinn, of OneNature, for an outreach proposal. He noted that Mr. Quinn was thinking about setting up a couple of dates in July and August to set up a table at Lake Mohegan to solicit feedback, as well as have a survey done about uses of the open space. He requested that if the Commission has any suggestions for the public outreach to let him DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO REVIEW, CORRECTION, AND APPROVAL BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
know. Mr. Carey will direct Mr. Quinn to develop the survey, and then the Commission will be able to review the survey at the next meeting. Mr. Carey also noted that one of the issues at Lake Mohegan is activities taking place after hours. To address this issue, Mr. Carey reported that he just met with a contractor to put in an electric gate with a timer at the cascades entrance.

D. EPA 319 Grant – Mill River Watershed Management Plan (status) – Mr. Carey reported that three people submitted comments from Trout Unlimited and that they are in the process of responding to those. They will then finalize the report and send it to the DEEP. He anticipates having a copy of the final report for review at the July meeting. Mr. Carey will also inquire as to whether DEEP will require any type of resolution from a town executive body.

III. NEW BUSINESS

B. Request of Attorney Raymond Rizio on behalf of Scinto Thorpe LLC to conduct work within the Town of Fairfield Open Space area/Pine Creek marsh located at 3 Rugby Road, Map 231 Parcel 9, for the purpose of replacing a sanitary sewer line, related to the 185 Thorpe Street development project

It was noted that this item is being tabled until the July 17, 2019 meeting.

IV. INFORMATIONAL

A. Conservation Crew Work Summary – Informational. Mr. Carey noted that they are getting a lot of work done with the 5 seasonal employees. The benches donated by the Board of Realtors have been installed along Shoreham Terrace. Mr. Jones has been doing a lot of trail work at Lake Mohegan.

V. OTHER

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made at 7:35 p.m. by Nelson North, and seconded by Jennifer Hauhuth. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Neafsey