

LYME CONSERVATION COMMISSION
INLAND WETLANDS and WATERCOURSE AGENCY

July 19, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

The Lyme Inland Wetlands Agency held a regular meeting on Wednesday July 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., Lyme Town Hall, 480 Hamburg Road, Lyme, CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT Paul Armond Chairman, Beverly Crowther, Ben Kegley, Pat Crowley, Sue Hessel alternate seated for Tom Reynolds, Bernie Gigliotti ZEO, and Patsy Turner Secretary. Absent Members: S. Kurlansky (alternate), T. Reynolds, P. Hammond

Site walk on 7/17/17: P. Armond & P. Hammond

Seat Alternate Member

Armond: Alternate member Sue Hessel was seated for absent regular member Tom Reynolds.

REGULAR MEETING

Maureen and Gil Johnson, 150 Ferry Road, Tax Map 18 Lot 45; an application for removal of invasive plant species along Whalebone Cove.

Present at the meeting were Maureen and Gil Johnson.

Johnson: The property at 150 Ferry Road was purchased in November 2015; the home is located on 31 acres with 8.8 acres being marshland on the creek and cove. The property line along the water is approximately 3,200. The home has been undergoing renovations since the purchase. The property has had very little maintenance to the landscaping. The application before the commission is for removal of invasives on the Cove side of the property (a list of the invasive species was stated into the record). The intent is not to open up views of the Cove; there are already fabulous views from the hill. There is a dock located on the creek side of the property. The area of concern is very flat and will not require silt fencing. The invasives will be removed without machinery by hand. This will be a long project. The area will be replanted with native species during the springtime of 2018. A list of potential plant species was read into the record. River Birch, Pine, and Pawpaw trees will be planted also.

Armond: The area was viewed on the site walk and the bittersweet is very large.

Johnson: The project which is will continue for a few years; the area of the shore will be 100 feet.

Dill: Will the project be divided into sections as to not have the whole waterfront area disturbed at the same time?

Armond: The area should be shown on a property map and a list of possible plants/trees should be attached to the plans.

Lisa Bakoledis, Day Hill Road, Tax Map 8 Lot 36; an application to construct a new dwelling and septic system within a regulated area.

Present at the meeting was Tom Metcalf representing the applicant. (The certified return receipts of letters mailed to abutters were handed to Gigliotti).

Metcalf: A letter from the Town Sanitarian (George Calkins) was received and the commission should have a copy. Mr. Calkins suggestion is that the leaching gallery elevations be dropped. The original subdivision maps are from the 1980's, the applicant has the opportunity to purchase lot #1. The parcel has been surveyed, the topography is on the maps, and Rich Snarski has flagged the wetlands and flood plan soils were marked; the 100 foot regulated area and the 150 foot for septic systems are both shown on the map. The entire property is within a regulated area. The proposed house with a garage would be situated on the front yard setback area and the septic system would be on higher ground. Construction sequence and the septic system details are on the plans in note form. The commission had requested a buffer along the brook; (note #11 on the plans) a 30 foot stream buffer area with a once a year mow and will be planted with native species vegetation and invasives removed. The area further upland from the

buffer would be limited mow area to maintain what is currently on the property. A note is also included to allow the ability to maintain a 6 foot wide pathway to the stream.

Armond: Can the 30 foot buffer area be a no mow area? Native shrubs can be planted along the water. The pathway can be mowed to the water. Invasive species usually invade when there are bare soils. A separate application would be required for the removal of invasives and the application of herbicides.

Metcalf read into the record the notations on the plans about the mow area.

Dill entertained a motion to approve the application as presented with the condition that the 30 foot buffer be a no mow area. The motion was seconded by Crowley and was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

200 Main at the Clock, LLC (Tom Zipp), 30-1 Brockway Ferry Road Tax Map 9 Lot 5; presentation of proposed restoration plan for area of unauthorized cutting.

Present at the meeting was Tom Zipp.

Armond: A site inspection did occur since last month's meeting; the hillside was not revegetating and more action is required, a replanting plan is needed.

Zipp: The area was replanted with Sweet Fern and Bayberry, totaling 75 plants. (Photographs of the area were presented to the commission)

Armond: Sweet Fern is a great choice for a difficult area like this hillside; the plants will spread with underground runners. The cease and desist order can be lifted. The area will require lots of watering to allow the plants to get established during the summer months.

Armond entertained a motion to lift the cease and desist order.

Crowley moved the motion and Crowther seconded, the motion was passed unanimously.

Joseph Fouquette 509-1 Hamburg Road Tax Map 38 Lot 6; cease and desist order for clearing and filling of wetlands.

Gigliotti: Mr. Fouquette is not present; he has contacted specialists and is gathering information as how to proceed with the restoration of the disturbed area.

Armond: A map of the area is needed with destruction sequence.

NEW BUSINESS

Eversource Energy (Susan Stotts); discussion of removal of a tree that is endangering power transmission lines traversing the property of Joseph and Catherine Walters, 225-2 Hamburg Road. The tree removal will require temporary filling of a regulated area to provide access for a bucket truck.

Present at the meeting was Susan Stotts, licensed arborist.

Stotts: There is a three phase backbone line in the area of concern; if something were to occur in that area 500 to 600 people would have an outage. Many trees were taken down along Route 156. In one area there is a Black Locust tree which is 6 inches away from a primary line. A Black Cherry tree which cannot be reached from the road or safely climbed for trimming; about 15 feet from the driveway where the Black Cherry tree is located there is a drop off which is the location we are proposing to fill temporarily with 4 loads of woodchips. Then the truck will be brought in to trim the two trees safely, the wood will be removed and then the woodchips will be cleaned from the ditch.

Armond: What is the time period for this project? Landscape fabric should be placed beneath the woodchips to create an easier cleanup of the area.

Stotts: The work can be done within a week.

Kegley: BULLBAGS can be filled with the woodchips which would be easier to remove.

Gigliotti: There is not an application filed but a post application can be completed.

Armond entertained a motion to approve the activity with the stipulation that landscape fabric be placed in the wetlands area prior to the placement of the woodchips to achieve full removal of the fill. A post application will be filed for the project.

Stotts: Gigliotti will be notified when the project will begin.
Dill seconded and the motion was passed.

Presentation by the Friends of Whalebone Cove and the Roger Tory Perterson Estuary Center concerning the plant survey being conducted in Whalebone Cove.

Present at the meeting were Humphrey Tyler (Friends of Whalebone Cove representative), Eleanor Robinson (Roger Tory Perterson Estuary Center representative), Jim Arrigoni-Aquatic Ecologist (mentor for college students), Leila Kouakou and Hailey Rivers (2 interns doing the study).

Robinson: There are studies being done of submerge aquatic vegetation at Whalebone Cove, Selden Creek, and Hamburg Cove. Mount Holyoke College has paid internships. The project started at the end of June 2017 and will be a seven week study.

Armond: Letters were sent to the property owners around Whalebone Cove to inform them of the study, what was the response?

Tyler: Almost all the property owners except two along Whalebone Cove gave permission for the interns to enter with Kayaks.

A PowerPoint presentation was presented by Leila and Hailey. The project and study was described during the presentation. The types of aquatic plants and invasive species which were found in the cove were explained in detail. The college students are following methodology previously documented by Jullian Barret in 1997. Samples are taken if necessary to identify the plant species. A map was shown of the area where the study is being done, mapped out by GPS.

It was suggested that the kayaks be washed off before moving to another body of water to avoid transferring plant species.

Tyler: There is a second plant study of emergent invasives being done in Whalebone Cove and is sponsored by Friends of Whalebone Cove. During the study there are 6 invasives being searched for in the waters of Whalebone Cove. The infestations of the invasives are being identified and how to remove the plants.

Arrigoni: The final documentation will be shared with the commission.

Return to OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of the changes proposed for the wetlands regulations.

The commission members' comments and proposed changes were discussed and will be incorporated in the regulations.

APPROVAL OF OUTSTANDING MINUTES

A motion was made by Armond to approve the minutes of the June 2017 with the typo corrected (happening changes to happen), Crowther moved the motion and was seconded by Kegley, and the minutes were accepted with 2 abstentions (R. Dill and S. Hessel).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy Turner, Secretary