

Redding Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 1028
Redding Center, Connecticut 06875-1028

MINUTES
August 16, 2022
7:30 p.m. - via Zoom

Topic: Redding Conservation Commission
Time: Aug 16, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Present via video: David Pattee, Chairman; Stuart Green, Wallace Perlman, Tina Miller, Susan Robinson, William Hill

Also present: Aimee Pardee, Landuse Director; Glenn and Erin Cooper; Hernan Benitez; Nancy King, Terry Flagg, Carol Murray, Michael Rigby, members of the board, Mark Twain Library.

Commissioner started the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting Minute: August 2, 2022

Ms. Robinson noted that she seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Perlman motioned, and Ms. Robinson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of August 2, 2022. The motion was passed unanimously.

Site Inspection Minutes: 50 Lonetown Road, August 7, 2022

Ms. Robinson motioned, and Mr. Perlman seconded the motion to approve the Site Inspection minutes of August 7, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

II. REGULATORY

Notice of Violation, Paola Benitez, 440 Black Rock Turnpike. To discuss violation regarding earthmoving and soil disturbance adjacent to a watercourse. Discussion 4/05/2022; 4/19/2022. Awaiting Inland-Wetlands Application Form. Discussion 5/03/2022; 7/05/2022; 8/02/2022.

Order to Cease and Correct – Letter issued August 9, 2022.

Mr. Benitez stated that he has the applications and has not gotten the paperwork to the commission due to travel and work. He has sent the plans to be copied. He plans to get the copies to Ms. Kiel this week, including a site plan, bridge plan, and building plan. Mr. Benitez stated that the bridge is unsafe due to collapsing and inquired if it were possible to get an emergency application to begin work on the bridge. Mr.

Pattee said that an emergency permit did not exist and getting the application in will get the process moving forward.

Application #22 – 12, Mark Twain Library Association, 439 Redding Road. To receive and discuss an application to construct a stone terrace, walls, and a pergola within the regulated area.

Ms. Murray shared the plans for a pergola and paved gathering area to be added to Mark Twain Library. The pergola would be a free-standing structure made with low maintenance aluminum. The project would involve removal of one tree. Mr. Green asked if there would be regrading done by the steps. Ms. Murray shared that the only regrading would take place by the doorway and window. Mr. Perlman asked if the aluminum would be for the beams. Ms. Murray clarified that it would be the beams and posts. Mr. Green asked what the base of the paved area would be made from. Ms. Murray shared it would be a natural stone with a concrete base to avoid weeds. Ms. Murray stated that the project could potentially begin this Fall/Winter but may be pushed back until the Spring. She proposed that it would take roughly 3-4 months to complete. A Site Inspection will be conducted on Saturday, August 27, at 9:00 a.m.

III. Possible Violation - Discussion

Erin Cooper, 50 Lonetown Road. Violation of spreading a considerable amount of woodchips both within a wetland area and within the 100' regulated area around wetlands. Discussion 8/02/2022.

Site Inspection was done on Sunday August 7th at 9:00 a.m. In addition to the woodchips, there appears to be soil that has been put near the wetlands. The Coopers stated that they did not place any soil in this area, but they believe that it may have been the result of the machines used from the tree removal. Ms. Robinson asked Ms. Pardee to clarify the sequence of events that led to this violation. Ms. Pardee shared that a letter was sent to the family in early Spring of this year. Woodchips were deposited from the town at that time and the homeowners told Ms. Pardee that the plan was to move the woodchips away from the wetland area. After, tree work was completed, and woodchips were spread by the pond. Ms. Robinson asked for clarification as to what was used to spread the woodchips since it looked like the area was scraped. Mr. Cooper shared that a mini excavator was used by the tree company. Mr. Hill asked if the tree company pulled any stumps. The homeowner shared that they were cut low but not removed. Mr. Green inquired if a permit would be needed to remediate the woodchips in the area to create a garden here. Mr. Pattee shared that as of right now, nothing is placed in the wetlands. Ms. Miller inquired whether the woodchips around the pond could be removed without a permit. She noted three areas of woodchips, in the garden, by the driveway, and around the pond. Mr. Pattee shared that he had seen leaves surrounding the pond. The commission agreed that an additional Site Walk was necessary. The Site Walk will take place on Saturday, August 27th, at 9:30 am.

IV. DISCUSSION - Open Space Bow Hunting

At this time, Mr. Pattee recommended that the commission does not allow bow hunting in open space. Ms. Miller motioned to suspend bow hunting this year until next year. This will be revisited next August. Mr. Perlman seconded. Mr. Green shared that he feels those who previously applied for permits should be notified that bow hunting is being suspended. Mr. Pattee stated he does not feel that is necessary at this time. Mr. Green would like consideration around a deer warden in the future. The motion was passed unanimously.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Proposal for the Boardwalk was received. Ms. Pemberton confirmed with Mr. Pattee that the additional costs for this project would not be an issue. Mr. Green spoke with Mr. Nazzaro to move forward with this project and to utilize Mr. Hill's barn.

The Land Trust is having a get together on the 27th at the Buddhist Center.

Money from the Open Space Maintenance Budget was reviewed for fertilizer for the fields on Couch Hill. The estimate for all of the fields was \$10,000. At this time, the commission would like a quote on how much it would cost to fertilize the middle field only, field C.

Mr. Perlman shared that Ms. Pemberton has reappointed Sean McNamara as tree warden. Subsequently, the topic surrounding Eversource and tree removal in town was discussed.

At 9:11 p.m. the meeting was motioned to adjourn by Ms. Miller, and Mr. Perlman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:
Amanda Wielk