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TOWN OF FARMINGTON
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

December 7, 2016

Present were Chairman Hinze, Commissioners Hannon, Isner, Quigley and Simpson (until 8:45 p.m.), Alternate Commissioners Markuszka and Wolf and Assistant Town Planner. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Hinze.

Alternate Commissioner Markuszka was appointed to vote on behalf of Commissioner Radacsi. Alternate Commissioner Wolf was appointed to vote on behalf of Commissioner Amato.

NEW BUSINESS

Latitude Design Services, LLC – 1651 Farmington Avenue

Acceptance of application and determination of as of right or regulated activity regarding tree removal on residential property. Christopher Hoff, Landscape Architect with Latitude Design Services, who developed master plan for 1651 Farmington Avenue represented the application. Overall intent of the project is to create a park-like setting for the owners by the time they retire in approximately five years. The majority of the area was loaded with bittersweet and with trees in decline or already dead. They cut down bittersweet so they could see what was alive underneath it. He found a great number of trees in decline or dead so they were removed. A couple other trees were damaged from a micro burst and removed. Mr. Hoff reviewed the planting plan proposed to create the park-like setting. Riverbank is untouched at this time but the plan is to remove invasive species by hand. He will be monitoring the site for four or five years.

The Commissioners asked for confirmation that no additional fill material will be brought onto the site; that the homeowner would be willing to implement an integrated pest management plan; confirmation whether trees on the riverbank will be retained; disposition of wood chips from the chipped trees and invasive species; recommendations, regarding bank stabilization, to check with First Light Hydro and their bank management plan for Candlewood Lake so the design work is already done. It was also recommended the applicant maintain a close working relationship with Town staff as they progress with the project.

Mr. Hoff responded no fill material will be brought onto the site, the homeowner is willing to implement an integrated pest management plan; trees on the riverbank will not be removed; chipped material will be left in place and monitored for new growth of invasive species; Mr. Hoff will look for First Light Hydro's bank management plan and Assistant Planner Rutherford will forward information from the Commission. The applicant will provide more detail at the next meeting.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Isner/Hannon) it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the application for regulated activity within upland review area to remove trees at 1651 Farmington Avenue.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Quigley/Hannon) it was unanimously

VOTED: To make the determination that the proposed activity is non-significant and does not require a public hearing.

Trumpf Inc. – 111 Hyde Road

Chairman Hinze recused himself from this matter and appointed Commission Isner as Acting Chairman.

George Andrews, Loureiro Engineering, provided an update regarding the proposal to construct a campus wide walking path. Mr. Andrews indicated they notified the adjacent municipality and the water companies regarding the project, as required by the regulations. Today updated plans were submitted to Town staff and engineering comments have been received. Mr. Andrews reviewed the proposal previously presented at the November 2, 2016 meeting. He has worked with staff to make the entire path ADA accessible. The walkway is a five foot wide pervious pavement path under laid with crushed stone. The proposed path at 111 Hyde Road is 38 feet away from the wetlands at the closest point and at 1 Johnson Avenue it is 20 to 24 feet away from the wetlands at the closest point. There is no proposed activity in the wetlands. Regarding the conservation easement there will be no new permanent encroachment but there will be a temporary encroachment for erosion control. Additionally, he indicated that they field located the trees at the edge of the Conservation Easement and confirmed that no substantial trees will have to be removed to accommodate the proposed trail. Mr. Andrews commented on engineering comments. Comment No. 1 he would prefer not to change. Comment No. 2 he would like to keep five foot width. Comment No. 7 regarding fencing at the railing; the Health and Safety Officer would like to leave the option open to make a call as to whether they would like to install railing for safety. Otherwise they are willing to accommodate all the other engineering comments.

Commissioners asked about plans for the addition of trash/recycling cans; providing notice the wetland area is an environmentally sensitive area; addition of crushed stone for the western edge of the lot (111 Hyde Road); recommend restricting use of deicing chemicals and sand on the path; implementation of an integrated pest management plan; erosion control blanket (biodegradable). Mr. Andrews only expressed concern with implementing an integrated pest management plan.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Hannon/Simpson) it was unanimously

VOTED: To make the determination that the Trumpf Inc. application for regulated activity within upland review area to install campus wide walking path at 111 Hyde Road is a non-significant activity and does not require a public hearing.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Simpson/Hannon) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the regulated activity to construct a walking path within the upland review area at 111 Hyde Road and 1 Johnson Avenue with the following conditions:

1. Recommend consideration to develop an integrated pest management plan in the upland review area;
2. Work with staff to address engineering comments dated December 7, 2016;
3. Work with staff regarding placement of trash/recycling cans and signage regarding language for notice of the environmentally sensitive area.
4. No use of sand or salt on walking trail.
5. Erosion Control blanket shall be biodegradable.

Baliram Maraj – 801 Plainville Avenue

Receipt of wetland restoration plan and determination of significance for property located at 801 Plainville Avenue. No one was present for the applicant. The Commission would like to conduct a site visit on December 18, 2016. The Commission requested a copy of the approved site plan.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Quigley/Isner) it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the restoration plan application for 801 Plainville Avenue.

Avon Public Schools

Request for an extension of prior approval to continue the Avon Public Schools Crew Program at Batterson Park. The school has extended their agreement with the City of Hartford. There are no changes to the program and there have been no complaints.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Hannon/Simpson) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the continued operation of Avon Public School Crew Program at Batterson Park Road until October 31, 2019. Additional approval will be needed if the agreement with the City of Hartford is extended beyond October 31, 2019.

Farmington Public Schools – 50 Judson Lane

Dave Tabol presented the West Wood Upper Elementary School proposal to install a playground. He reviewed the process they have been through to get to this point. The Town has been very helpful throughout the process. Regarding the surface area for the playground the plan is to use woodchips and lawn area for the surface for cost and durability. The Commissioners reviewed the proposed site plan. There were some clarifying questions on the layout and surfaces of the playground area.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Hannon/Simpson) it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the application to install playground within upland review area at 50 Judson Lane.

The Commission will conduct a site walk on December 18, 2016.

OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business.

PLANNER'S REPORT

10 Birdseye Road

Medical office building under construction. The owners would like to improve the appearance of the southern end of their property. There is a wetland and drainage swale along the toe of slope for the I-84 ramp that is adjacent to the southern edge of their property. They would like

to clean up the scrub/brush and replant with native material. They are looking for feedback from the Commission prior to enlisting Milone & MacBroom to develop a formal plan. The area is in the DOT right-of-way and would need their approval.

The Commission members were generally receptive to this concept.

Five Guys – 278 Scott Swamp Road

Commissioners asked Assistant Planner Rutherford to see if Five Guys is still draining into Scott Swamp Brook.

MINUTES

November 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made and seconded (Quigley/ Markuszka) it was unanimously

VOTED: 4 in favor, 2 abstentions (Isner, Hannon) to approve the November 2, 2016 meeting minutes.

November 20, 2016 Site Walk Notes

Upon a motion made and seconded (Quigley/ Markuszka) it was unanimously

VOTED: 4 in favor, 2 abstentions (Isner, Hannon) to approve the November 20, 2016 site walk notes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

SJM