

Town of West Hartford Conservation and Environment Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 30, 2018, 7:00 PM
Town Hall, Room 314

The Commission was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

Roll Call: Stefanie Keohane, Matt Macunas, Maria Roja, Jessica Schaeffer-Helmecki and Emilee Scott.

Ryan Langan has been appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission and has ended his service on the Conservation and Environment Commission.

Old Business: Keohane moved to adopt the minutes from the March 26th meeting, seconded by Roja.

1 Abrahms Boulevard—Application (IWW #1087) of the Mandell Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center (Hebrew Home for Health and Rehabilitation, LLC, R.O.), requesting approval of a map amendment to the Official Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map of the Town of West Hartford. The proposed amendment is based on an onsite soil survey prepared by a professional soil scientist. (Submitted for IWWA receipt on August 6, 2018.)

21 Abrahms Boulevard—Application (IWW #1088) of the Mandell Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center (Hebrew Home for Health and Rehabilitation, LLC, R.O.), requesting approval of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit to conduct certain regulated activities, which may have an adverse impact on a wetland and watercourse area. The applicant proposes to construct an approximately 2,400 s.f. nature center located between the existing Jonathan’s Dream Playground and the campus’s north entrance off Abrahms Boulevard. (Submitted for IWWA receipt on August 6, 2018.)

Applicant was represented by wetlands soil scientist Ian Cole. Applicant proposes to add an outdoor nature center on a small wooded area of its existing campus, adjacent to the Jonathan’s Dream playground. The entire project area is within the 150-foot upland review area. The project is intended to provide a setting for children to explore a natural outdoor area.

The proposed project will not add any new impervious surfaces and will not alter site drainage. A majority of mature trees on the site will be retained, and a three will be removed to create a clearing for groups to gather. Invasive understory species will be replaced with native plantings – 19 containerized shrubs and 59 containers of herbaceous vegetation. An area of approximately 2,400 square feet will be covered by 2” of processed gravel and top-dressed with mulch. All material will be leveled by hand. One hundred eighty-eight square feet of porous pavers will be installed in an entry area.

Pending approval, the project would be constructed over a short period of time in fall 2018.

Proposed map amendments were arrived at through on-site field delineation. Existing identified wetland is essentially a roadside drainage ditch composed of compact, disturbed soils.

Adjournment at 7:23 pm motioned by Keohane, seconded by Roja.