

**SUFFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MEETING OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022**

PRESENT: **Art Christian, Chairman**
 Glenn Neilson, Vice Chairman
 Norm John Noble
 Pat Reilly
 Ray Wilcox
 Tom Elmore
 Beth Fanous
 Jessica McCue
 Gary Phelps

CONSULTANT: **Keith Morris**

FIRST SELECTMAN: **Colin Moll**

SELECTMAN: **Kathleen Harrington**
 Jerry Mahoney

CALL MEETING TO ORDER- 7:00 P.M.

Chairman Christian called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Consultant Morris read the agenda. Chairman Christian then introduced new Commissioner Gary Phelps who will be a voting member in place of Commissioner Krar, who has resigned from the Commission.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Potential Dog Park – Stony Brooke Park

Vice Chairman Christian gave a little background on the proposed dog park at Stony Brooke Park. When the First Selectman first approached him regarding the possibility of the dog park Chairman Christian asked Consultant Morris to send out an email to the Commission for their input. Consultant Morris also emailed the Commission rules for dog parks in Granby and Simsbury Connecticut. First Selectman Colin Moll then asked to attend a meeting to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Chairman Christian then turned the meeting over to First Selectman Moll. He first thanked the Commission for inviting him to the meeting to discuss the proposed dog park. He also handed out materials which included plans depicting the location and size of the proposed dog park. Stony Brooke Park was chosen as the location for the dog park due to its location and access from the new multi-use trail on Mountain Road and also to

bring more attention to the lesser used Stony Brooke Park. The plan is to provide side walk access to the park from Mountain Road. Several companies have donated funds/materials for the fencing around the park and also the mulch to be used as ground cover.

In response to questions from the Commission the First Selectman stated that the park will be maintained by the highway department and rules will be posted. A five-foot-high fence will enclose the park and will be rounded to eliminate corners. There will be two sections, one for older and little dogs/puppies and one for the rest of the dogs. There will be added parking on the grass area. An informational letter has been sent to the abutters. Town Counsel does not see any liability issues with the proposed park.

Selectmen Kathleen Harrington and Jerry Mahoney were present and spoke in favor of the project, stating that they wanted to get the Commission's input prior to the Board of Selectman meeting on September 7, 2022. First Selectman Moll thanked them for attending the Conservation Commission meeting and speaking in favor of the project.

After discussion, Vice Chairman Neilson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Reilly, stating that the Commission was in favor of the project moving forward. The motion was carried unanimously.

Dylan Drive – Proposed Pool

Consultant Morris updated the Commission on work that may be proposed at 3 Dylan Drive. The work would involve construction of a pool and locating a shed adjacent to the wetlands. Consultant Morris asked the property owner to come in because the proposed work would involve bringing in fill to construct the project. Property owner Abdul Hotaki addressed the Commission. Consultant Morris stated that each commissioner had a copy of a preliminary plan of the proposed work along with several pictures of the property. A lengthy discussion followed on the proposed location of the pool and the fill that would have to be brought in. Vice Chairman Neilson and Commissioner Wilcox asked if the pool could be moved closer to the house and maybe put on an angle to get it further away from the wetland area. Commissioner McCue suggested proposing a planting plan with native species between the pool and the wetland to the rear of the property. In conclusion the Commission requested that an application be filed with a detailed engineered plan depicting the proposed pool area, planting plan and any proposed topography and/or retaining wall.

Canal Road – Ahlstrom – Erosion Issues

Consultant Morris introduced Gary Jackson from Ahlstrom who presented a plan to repair an erosion problem on their property off of Canal Road, adjacent to the Windsor Locks canal. A change in the flow direction of runoff from the adjacent fields has created an erosion problem west of the head gates of the Windsor Locks canal. They would like to change the flow pattern and stabilize it with rip rap to direct runoff to its original discharge location. During discussion Vice Chairman Neilson suggested installing a

level spreader upgrade to help dissipate flow. After discussion the Commission granted permission to go ahead with the work.

DECISIONS:

Permit # 1698 – Paganelli (applicant) – Resubdivision – Halladay Avenue & North Street This property is located at the southwest corner of Halladay Avenue and North Street. Assessor’s Map Number 39H, Block 29, Lot 13.

Consultant Morris presented the application of Gary Paganelli for the resubdivision of land to create two additional building lots on the southwest corner of North Street and Halladay Avenue. If approved this would be a conceptual ruling as no construction is proposed under this application. The applicant’s engineer has shown the potential to build two houses on the proposed lots. Consultant Morris stated that each lot would have to come back for approval from the Commission prior to construction. After discussion Vice Chairman Neilson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Reilly, to approve the application of Gary Paganelli for the resubdivision of land into two possible building lots. This is approved as a conceptual ruling as no construction is proposed under this application. Each lot shall come back to the Commission for approval prior to construction. The motion was carried, Chairman Christian and Commissioner Wilcox abstained. Do you want to put in the vote count?

PARKS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Consultant Morris presented the Parks Superintendent’s report as he was not present. The treatment of White’s Pond has cleared up the algae problem and there was little impact to swimming activities. There have been no further signs of graffiti at the Park. He is concerned with the condition of the railroad trestle adjacent to Stony Brooke Park as it is in a state of disrepair. He has made the highway foreman and the First Selectman aware of the situation.

His report also spoke in favor of the proposed dog park along with a few items to consider in the design and upkeep of the park.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CONSULTANT’S REPORT:

Consultant Morris discussed a request by the Suffield Garden Club to host a tree identification walk at Sunrise Park on October 1, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00. After a brief discussion the Commission has no problem with this request. Consultant Morris shall instruct the club to work out the details with the Parks Superintendent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 26, 2022 MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Noble made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Reilly to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Neilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Noble. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Norm John Noble
Recording Secretary