

**SUFFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MEETING OF TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023**

PRESENT:

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

CONSULTANT:

Keith Morris

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. Alternate Commissioner Tom Elmore shall be a voting member in place of Commissioner Reilly who was not present.

PARKS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Parks Superintendent Tom O'Brien presented his report to the Commission. The trails at Stony Brooke Park are overgrown with several trees down. When weather conditions permit he will get in there to clear up the trails. Sunrise Park has been very busy. There have been several issues with people not reading or not understanding the rules. The crowds have been getting bigger on the weekends. A discussion followed on extending the gatekeepers and life guard hours on weekends and perhaps monitoring the parking situation. After discussion it was decided that Chairman Christian will talk with the First Selectman and Parks and Recreation Director regarding extending the gatekeepers and lifeguard hours on weekends.

The recent rains have resulted in some of the gravel that the highway department put in being washed away. The Parks Superintendent will contact the highway department to make the necessary repairs.

PLAN ACCEPTANCE:

Permit # 1707 – Briarwood Homes, Inc (applicant) – 24 Lot Subdivision – Remington Street. This property is located on the west side of Remington Street, nearest intersection being Oxford Drive. Assessor’s Map Number 29, Block 26, Lot 9-3.

Consultant Morris stated that this application is on the agenda to set the public hearing. The next meeting is August 22, 2023. After discussion, Commissioner Noble made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wilcox, to set the public hearing for this application for Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. The motion was made and carried.

After setting the public hearing Consultant Morris recommended that the Commission must make a motion to have the North Central Conservation District (NCCD) review the wetland boundary delineated by the applicant’s soil scientist. After discussion, Commissioner Noble made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Neilson, to have the NCCD review the wetland boundary delineated by the applicant’s soil scientist. The motion carried unanimously.

Lastly, Consultant Morris stated that the Commission has received a request to be an intervener for the public hearing process. After discussion, Commissioner Noble made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wilcox, recognizing the request to be an intervener and to put it on the August 22, 2023 meeting agenda as a separate item for a decision, prior to the start of the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Permit # 1708 – Hotaki (owner) – Pool and Shed installation – 3 Dylan Drive. This property is located on the west side of Dylan Drive, nearest intersection being Bridge Street. Assessor’s Map Number 55H, Block 47, Lot 14 C2.

Consultant Morris stated that this application is on the agenda for acceptance. The property owner came before the Commission informally last summer and at that time the Commission asked for an engineered plan for the pool and shed construction. Consultant Morris had the property owner file an application in order to save time in case the Commission wanted to go through the application process.

A discussion followed on the application and Vice Chairman Neilson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Phelps, to allow Consultant Morris to review the application administratively to ensure that proper erosion controls are being proposed and in place prior to the start of work. The motion was made and carried. Commissioner Elmore abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several residents wanted to discuss their concerns about the proposed Remington Street subdivision but were told by Chairman Christian and Consultant Morris that they had to wait until public input during the public hearing.

CONSULTANT’S REPORT:

Consultant Morris updated the Commission on several ongoing construction sites. The heavy rains have caused some erosion issues resulting in repair/replacement of erosion controls on site.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 23, 2023 MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Noble made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilcox and carried unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Elmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Noble. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Norm John Noble
Recording Secretary