

**SUFFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MEETING OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024**

PRESENT:

**Art Christian, Chairman
Glenn Neilson, Vice Chairman
Ray Wilcox
Norm John Noble
Pat Reilly
Tom Elmore
Beth Fanous
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 McCue shall be a voting member in place of Commissioner Phelps, who was not present.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Director of Public Works

New Director of Public Works Lee Corbert introduced himself to the Commission. He stated that he is in charge of all Town buildings, including those that are leased. A discussion followed on potential projects for Sunrise Park including replacing the existing summer hut. Several of these projects will require a presentation to ACCE. Commission Chairman Christian and Vice Chairman Neilson stated that they would attend the ACCE meeting on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Corbert is also working on getting a newer truck for the Parks Superintendent.

Proposed Logging Operation – Mapleton Avenue

Consultant Morris stated that Connecticut licensed logger Tom Anderson has submitted a logging plan for land on Mapleton Avenue. Mr. Anderson addressed the Commission. He discussed his plan for logging the property including several stream crossings, wetland buffers, and the special care that will be taken around two vernal pools on site. After discussion it was decided that consultant Morris shall visit the two vernal pools prior to logging adjacent to them to insure that proper setbacks are adhered too. Once the logging operation is completed, and prior to equipment being removed from the site,

Consultant Morris shall conduct an inspection with Mr. Anderson to insure that all the access roads and stream crossings are restored in the best way possible. After discussion, the Commission decided that this is a use as of right per Section 4 of the Suffield Conservation Commission Regulations.

1500 Hill Street

Consultant Morris updated the Commission regarding relocating the pigs and structures from the rear of the existing house to the rear of the property on the other side of the wetlands. The purpose of this meeting is to update the Commission on this process. Steven Aeschliman of Megson, Healgle, & Friend, Land Surveyors, representing the property owner Nikolai Denishehich, who was also in attendance, presented a draft plan to the Commission. The proposal is to cross the wetlands with a minimal width access road and relocate the pigs to the eastern portion of the property along with the construction of two animal enclosures.

A discussion followed on the amount of wetlands impacted for the proposed access and the disposal of manure and several other issues. After discussion Mr. Aeschliman will take a closer look at the options for the wetland crossing and perhaps have the Professional Soil Scientist check in to other options.

PARKS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Parks superintendent Tom O'Brien presented his report to the Commission. He is hoping that the trails at Stony Brooke Park can be brush hogged three or four times a year to encourage more use from the public. He then went over the numbers for the last couple of summers regarding out of Town residents paying a fee to enter Sunrise Park on weekends during the summer months. He stated that more and more people are using the Park each summer.

DECISION:

Permit # 1709 – Sheldon – Site Work – Forest Road. This property is located at 579 Forest Road. Assessor's Map Number 1H, Block 1, Lot 33.

Consultant Morris updated the Commission on this application for site work that has already been completed. The work involved construction of a retaining wall and stairs. Consultant Morris stated each Commissioner has a copy of the application and pictures of the completed work. Property owner Brian Sheldon then addressed the Commission and went over the work in detail.

After discussion, Vice Chairman Neilson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Noble, to approve the application of Brian Sheldon for work already completed at 579 Forest Road with the following conditions:

Suffield Conservation Commission stipulations 1-11 shall apply. (Copy attached).

12. The Commission's agent shall conduct site inspection in the spring of 2024 once the site has been permanently stabilized.

This property is located at 579 Forest Road. This permit is granted in a Declaratory Ruling, as it is the Commission's opinion that the work will not have a significant impact on regulated areas. The motion was carried unanimously. The applicant has paid a filing fee of \$ 135.00.

**PRIOR TO THE START OF ANY WORK ON THIS PROPERTY, PLEASE
SUBMIT THE CONTRACTOR'S COMPLIANCE STATEMENT AND START
WORK NOTICE TO THE CONSERVATION OFFICE.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSULTANT'S REPORT:

Consultant Morris updated the Commission on the request from a property owner to dredge a portion of a stream on his property on Boston Neck Road. Mr. Morris stated that with the current regulations it would not be feasible nor did he see it improving drainage in the area.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 9, 2024 MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION**

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

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Noble made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reilly. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Norm John Noble
Recording Secretary