

TOWN OF CROMWELL
INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY
41 WEST STREET, CROMWELL, CT 06416

REGULAR MEETING
7:00 WEDNESDAY, October 5, 2016
ROOM 224
CROMWELL TOWN HALL, 41 WEST STREET

Minutes and Record of Votes

Present: Chairman Joseph Corlis, Wynn Muller, G. Alden Nettleton, William Yeske, Amanda Drew,

Also Present: Zoning Enforcement Officer Fred Curtin, Town Council Liaison Tom Tokarz

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Corlis at 7:01pm.

2. Roll Call

The presence of the above members was noted.

3. Seating of Alternates: none

4. Approval of Agenda:

A **motion** was made by Amanda Drew and **seconded** by G. Alden Nettleton to approve the agenda. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

5. Approval of Minutes:

a. September 7, 2016

A **motion** was made by Amanda Drew and **seconded** by Scott Lamberson to approve the minutes of July 6, 2016. *Wynn Muller abstained; rest approved; the motion passed.*

6. Development Compliance Officer Report:

a. Status of On-going Projects

Mr. Curtin said that he went back and took pictures of 6 Riverside Drive. This will be discussed at item 9a.

b. Status of Existing Cease and Desist Orders

Mr. Curtin said see item 9a.

7. Town Planner Report:

Mr. Curtin said Mr. Popper ended up going home sick today and he did not leave me anything.

8. Public Comments: - none

9. Old Business:

- a. Application # 16-05: Request to clear trees to obtain a view of the Connecticut River within the 200 feet of the Connecticut River at 4 Riverside Drive. Southington II, LLC is the Applicant and the Owner.

Mark Friend, Engineer and Soil Scientist said he was contacted by the homeowner in August and took pictures while he walked the site in August. He said this is a very steep slope. He said the stumps were left and they are starting to sprout back up so that means they are still viable and alive. He said the root mass is stabilizing the surface with no signs of erosion. Mr. Friend said my opinion is the slope is stable and nothing needs to be done. He said the stumps will continue to grow. Ms. Drew asked his opinion about long term erosion as the neighbors expressed some concerns. Mr. Friend said that long term the stumps will continue to grow with the chance a few won't but I don't see any future problems. Ms. Drew asked if this was a onetime thing or will they have to cut again in 5-10 years.

William Stiefel, owner of 4 Riverside Drive, living at 113 Bartlett Hollow Middletown said he will continue to cut as the view becomes obstructed since his hope is to maintain the view. Mr. Yeske asked if you can keep the trees trimmed so you don't have to keep cutting.

Mr. Friend said he is not an arborist so I don't know how much you can trim. He said that Mr. Stiefel can contact an Arborist at the appropriate time to look at pruning.

Mr. Corlis asked how heavy rains might affect the property. Mr. Friend said I don't think any since the roots will hold it in place. Mr. Muller said but the canopy is lost. Mr. Friend said all of the roots are intact. Chairman Corlis asked for members of the public who wanted to speak.

Maryann Steuernagel, 6 Riverside Drive said she wanted to ask Mr. Friend questions. She said your report said he should possibly plant seedlings. She said I am concerned with erosion in 20 years and I wonder how much the roots will rot. She asked if the stumps would grow another 4-5 feet. She said I am not looking to inconvenience my neighbor but want to protect the bank.

Mr. Friend said that the stumps sprouting up are suckers. He said they will continue to grow so I don't think planting are necessary. He said I don't suggest planting ground cover or big trees that need equipment. He said if the Commission wants they should be small trees but I really don't think anything is necessary.

Mr. Muller said he read the minutes from last month and asked Mr. Curtin what alternate action we need to take. He said if we approve now what is going to stop others from doing the same thing of performing the work first and then getting approvals after. He asked if there were additional fees we can impose. Mr. Curtin said you can cut trees but you can't stump. He said there is a way to calculate fines. Ms. Drew said I don't think you need to fine since there was no ill intent. She said my concern is that in 10-15 years we might see erosion so I think a condition of the area being monitored is needed. Mr. Curtin said you can put on a release for all future owners. Mr. Muller asked the best time to plant saplings and Mr. Friend said not now since it's been too dry.

A **motion** was made by Wynn Muller and **seconded** by William Yeske to approve application 16-05 with the conditions that the site be monitored for 5 years to see how it develops and if signs of erosion are found to prepare a plan to remedy it. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

Mr. Curtin said the condition will apply for future buyers as well.

10. Commissioners' Comments and Reports:

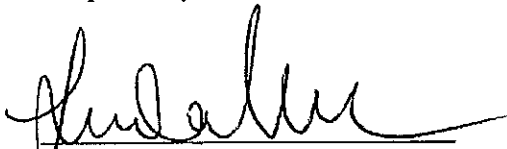
Mr. Lamberson's resignation was discussed and what party can replace him.

Mr. Corlis reminded the members of the conference in Rocky Hill and to pay by October 15, 2016.

11. Adjourn

A **motion** was made by Amanda Drew and **seconded** by G. Alden Nettleton to adjourn at 7:24pm. All were in favor; the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda Imme
Recording Clerk