

CONSERVATION AND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
TOWN OF DEEP RIVER, CONNECTICUT
Town Hall 174 Main Street Deep River, Connecticut 06417

A regular meeting of the Deep River Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission held on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at the Deep River Town Hall was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Acting Chairman Voitovich. Members present: Stuart Cutler, Carol Libby, Emily Nelson, Jake Ricker, and John Voitovich, Alternate George Atwood. Absent: Susan Board and Tanner Steeves. Also present: Attorney Karen Perry (Commission Attorney), Nancy Howard (Recording Secretary), Carol Jones (First Selectperson), Richard Forristall, David Blifford, and Malcolm Melville. Vice Chairman Voitovich served as Acting Chairman for the meeting. Alternate Atwood was seated as a regular member for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Carol Libby and seconded by Emily Nelson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 9, 2023 as printed. (6-0) Voted Unanimously.

Audience: None.

Deep River Land Trust: Malcolm Melville from the Deep River Land Trust was present for discussion regarding a beaver flooding issue on the Lyon's Preserve located on Meadow Woods Road and looking for determination if a permit is necessary. The Land Trust is proposing to install a beaver deceiver at the border of the Lyon's property to control the level of the pond and prevent encroachment on adjacent property. The dam is located under the foot bridge that crosses the right of way at the southern most extreme of the Lyon's property. The question was raised if the location of the work is on the land trust property or the adjacent property. Mr. Melville noted that they have not spoken with the adjacent property owner. The installation is considered a precautionary measure because there is current evidence of a problem. Commission members recommended notifying all adjacent property owners. The ownership would need to be determined. Mr. Melville noted that they would like to do the work within the month. The proposal would minimize impact to wildlife. Written authorization would be required by the property owner. The consensus of the members was that the activity would be as of right for the property owner.

Fountain Hill Cemetery, High Street: David Blifford and Richard Forristall were present on behalf of the Fountain Hill Cemetery Association for preliminary discussion. Mr. Blifford noted that the Association is proposing to upgrade the pond which has been silted in for many years and bring it back to its original aesthetic and depth and include a fountain. Approximately 1½ to 3 feet of sediment would be removed. Some of the material is proposed to be spread uphill. The south side of the pond is a natural spring and the outlet is on the north side of the pond. Work would be proposed in the dry time of year. The cemetery had a letter from the Fire Department that the pond would be a good water source for the department. An application may be submitted soon. A site walk may be scheduled when the application is received.

Jake Ricker was welcomed as a new member of the Commission.

Old Business:

James Guerrero, Jr. & Felisha Guerrero, 28 Hoophole Hill Road: Attorney Perry reported that she and the attorney for the Guerreras worked out a consent order which has been signed with a plan for going forward with remediation at the site. John and Tanner went to the property and measured and restaked the site based on the stipulations discussed at the last meeting

Enforcement: Currently there is no wetlands enforcement officer. A draft job description was reviewed.

Kenneth Stanwix, 104 Rattling Valley Road: A letter of violation was sent regarding the work on the pond and dam. No response was received from the property owner.

Financial Report/Payment of Bills: Copies were available of the proposed budget submitted for 2024/2025. A supplies line was added for the purchase of signed for Canfield Woods.

Chairman Report: John noted that he and Tanner have been working with the Committee on the conservation portion of the POCD. A rough draft is being prepared. Climate resilience and climate change are currently being discussed.

Secretary: No report.

Conservation/Canfield Woods: George Atwood noted that someone approached him expressing interest in serving as custodian for Canfield Woods. Additional signage for trails and rules were discussed.

A motion was made by George Atwood and seconded by Carol Libby to postpone election of officers to the next regular meeting. (6-0) Voted Unanimously.

Rattling Valley Road Open Space: The purchase of the open space on Rattling Valley Road was completed by the Town. The parcel is adjacent to Canfield Woods and across the street from a Deep River Land Trust parcel which connects to Pratt Cove. A proposed conservation easement was discussed for protection of the land in perpetuity.

A motion was made by George Atwood and seconded by Carol Libby to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. (6-0) Voted Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Howard
Recording Secretary