

**Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 1, 2021  
7:00pm Via WebEx**

**Present:** Diane Wimmer, Jeannine Noel, Dana Heilemann, Carolyn Teed-Ives, and April Lamothe; Recording Secretary

**Also Present:** Paul Archer, Rick Ives, Jana Roberson, and Robert Delcua

- 1) **Call to Order:** Diane Wimmer called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.
- 2) **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Carolyn Teed-Ives made a motion to approve the December 7, 2020 minutes. Jeannine Noel and Dana Heilemann seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.
- 3) **Budget 2020-2021:** Diane Wimmer has not received any budget information at this time about the budget.
- 4) **New Business:**

b) **Review of Church St Property:** Jana Roberson told the Commission that the homeowner requested a reduction of open space dedication of the Church Street subdivision to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Diane Wimmer asked if the original subdivision had more property put into easement than was required; Jana Roberson replied yes, it was higher than the minimum. Jana Roberson mentioned that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved of a private deed restriction, meaning that the homeowner could not develop the open space, but it is still private land. Diane Wimmer asked if the new proposal of open space quality for the ratio of open space needed for the parcel; Jana Roberson said that it meets the minimum of open space, it does have more wetlands and less steep slopes. Discussion ensued.

Diane Wimmer mentioned that the Commission accepted the original open space because the owner was going to take complete responsibility of the property and protect it during any construction. She also mentioned that if the Commission recommends fee in lieu, that without the restrictions on the open space, the wetlands may not be protected during construction. Dana Heilemann commented that the original open space protected the forest between the wetlands, whereas the proposed open space does not protect the area. Diane Wimmer and Dana Heilemann mentioned that if the proposed open space does not protect other natural resources, fee in lieu would be the best.

Recommendation: Carolyn Teed-Ives made a motion to recommend that property be kept in the original open space plan and if the owner does not agree, the Commission recommends fee in lieu of open space. Dana Heilemann seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

a) **Review of 4 Parcel Subdivision on Tripp Hollow Road:** This conservation subdivision was brought before the Commission about four years ago. Paul Archer told the Commission that the property is undergoing a four lot conventional subdivision and 5.58 acres is purposed for open space, which would be added to the previous open space (9.19 acres), giving a total of 15 acres of connected open space. The owner would keep responsibility for the open space. Planning and Zoning removed the no hunting stipulation on the previous open space and Paul Archer would like the new open space to also be allowed hunting. Discussion ensued.

Paul Archer read the covenants for the previous open space (9.19 acres) that would be applied to the new open space (5.58 acres) : 1) No structure of any kind may be built on said parcel; 2) No motorized vehicles shall be operated, stored or parked on said parcel; 3) No application of herbicides or pesticides shall be permitted on said parcel; 4) No dumping of any debris, waste, vegetation, trash shall occur on said parcel; 5) No fires shall be permitted on the parcel; 6) No livestock shall be permitted and no clearing of land for agricultural purposes shall be permitted on said parcel; 7) No mining or natural resources extraction shall occur on said parcel; and 8) No harvesting of timber for firewood except as part of a long-term management plan prepared by a professional forester and approved in advance of any activity by the Director of Community Development and the Wetlands Agent. No liquidation cuts or clear cutting are allowed at any time on said parcel.

Recommendation: Jeannine Noel made a motion to recommend the proposed open space of 5.58 acres with the same restrictions as the abutting open space of 9.19 acres. Carolyn Teed-Ives seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

- c) **Other:** Jeannine Noel received an email from Abe Salorio from Sustainable CT about a matching grant fund through which they would provide 50% of the cost for projects, up to \$7,500. Diane Wimmer said that with COVID-19 and the Commission not able to host programs, she does not want to see funds tied up. She mentioned that she was working with UCONN about the energy audit during the summer and will be reaching out to them soon. Also, the solar panel project at the schools is almost complete, so that will be able to be counted towards Sustainable CT.

Diane Wimmer also mentioned that Parks and Recreation have reached out to her about Family Fun Day, which may take place depending on COVID-19. Diane Wimmer mentioned that she would be willing to have a table there for planting seeds.

- 5) **Old Business:** None  
6) **Correspondence:** None  
7) **Public Comment:** None  
8) **Adjournment:** Jeannine Noel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. Dana Heilemann seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

Sincerely Submitted,  
April Lamothe  
Recording Secretary