

Minutes are considered "Draft" until approved by the Commission. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Office for a copy of final minutes.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 20, 2016

Present were Chairman Hinze, Commissioners Amato, Hannon, Isner, Quigley and Simpson and Alternate Commissioners Markuszka and Wolf and Assistant Town Planner and Clerk. The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. by Chairman Hinze.

New Business

15 Wisteria Lane

Homeowner, Eshan Malik was present. The Commission discussed observations made on the site walk. The property owner obtained a restoration plan from Vinnie Wygant and the Town met at the site with arborist, Jason Yerke who made observations and took note of the types of trees removed as well. Mr. Yerke stated the Town is due back similar species and he would recommend a two-year warranty. The Town Manager's Policy states the Town can require the property owner to hire Mr. Yerke to prepare a formal restoration plan on behalf of the Town. During discussion the Commission expressed concern for invasive species establishing in the now-exposed open area. A restoration plan should include an invasive species management plan. It was suggested that in the absence of medallions, other property owners abutting this Town Owned Open Space be sent a letter so that they are aware their property abuts Town-owned property.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Isner/Wolf) it was unanimously

VOTED: To direct the property owner of 15 Wisteria Lane to engage Jason Yerke to develop a restoration plan for the open space violation as follows:

1. The property owner is responsible to removal all debris from the Town Open Space including all cuttings, branches and stacked wood. This work shall avoid further disturbance to the Open Space and minimize mechanical means for removal;
2. The Town's consultant, a licensed arborist, shall prepare a restoration plan at the direction of Town staff for the disturbed area that replicates the mix of tree species that were removed, noting that other evergreen species will be used rather than Hemlock. The cost of the production of this restoration plan shall be the responsibility of the violator per Town Ordinance;
3. The Town's consultant shall prepare an invasive plant management protocol for the disturbed area; and
4. The property owner is responsible to implement the restoration plan in its entirety. The planting must take place late summer / early fall and must be completed by October 15, 2016. Additionally, the property owner is responsible for watering the plantings to ensure survivability. A two year warrant will be required on all plantings.
5. Town Conservation Area Markers shall be installed along your property boundary.

Old Business

No Old Business

Other Business

Land Acquisition Committee Report

The Commission reviewed a report submitted from the Land Acquisition Committee providing an update that the closing took place on the acquisition of Lot 6A/B Settlement Road and Lot 7 South Ridge Road. Work continues with Riverside Cemetery Association toward the location of additional land for the cemetery.

Land Acquisition Committee Minutes

The Committee further discussed creating an open space zone for existing open space as it provides additional protection from future development.

Planner's Report

Town Ordinance 148

Assistant Planner Rutherford discussed the current fines regarding Town owned land. The Commission is in support of changing the Ordinance to increase fines and to make the fines applicable for each tree removed. These fines would be in place until such time as restoration takes place. There was discussion about the fines going to a stewardship for the open space.

Minutes

Upon a motion made and seconded (Quigley/Simpson) it was

VOTED: 4 in favor (Hinze, Wolf, Markuszka, Quigley) and 3 abstentions to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2016 site walk.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Simpson/Quigley) it was

VOTED: 5 in favor and 2 abstentions (Hannon, Isner) to approve the July 6, 2016 minutes of the Conservation Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

SJM