

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY JUNE 13, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.

The Town of Berlin, Conservation Commission held its regular meeting in-person and by remote video conference call on Tuesday June 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting was held in person in the Engineering Room, #120, Berlin Town Hall, 240 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT and remotely by ZOOM video and telephone conference as provided on the agenda.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Michael DeLorenzo, Vice Chairman Guy Hoffman
Rob Ramsey, Karen Pagliaro, Thomas Heisler, Mary Kathryn Larose

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karl Lewis, Peter Zarabozo (Alternate)

STAFF

Maureen Giusti, Town Planner

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman DeLorenzo called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Pagliaro moved to approve the May 9, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Larose.
Passed unanimously.

PZC APPLICATION COMMENTS

I. Three Lot Resubdivision - M. Konferowicz Map 11-1; Block 127; Lot 16 235 Wethersfield Road June 15, 2023

Ms. Giusti explained that this property was a portion of a subdivision many years ago, but the owner never moved forward with dividing into three lots. The current owner is proposing again to divide into three lots, bringing sewer up Wethersfield Road. The three lots will meet the previous subdivision request and the existing house will remain.

Wetlands Commission report approved application on April 4th with five conditions. The Conservation Commission concurs with the IWWCC's five conditions.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

USE OF TOWN LAND

I. Trails and Open Space

a. Signage Replacements Update

Commissioner DeLorenzo stated that they are still waiting for ordered signs anticipating receipt within this budget year. QR Code stickers, which will link to the Town website's trail page, will be placed on the signs.

Commissioner DeLorenzo added that Heidi Brierly of the Connecticut Botanical Society emailed him and stated that the Town website has outdated maps. She also reminded him about her request on behalf of the Society to not mow sections of Hatchery Brook and the former Chotkowski property before June 19th due to the ground nesting birds study. Commissioner DeLorenzo suggested obtaining signs to annually explain to residents the reason some areas are not being mowed.

Signage at trail entrance points on Kensington Road, Stillmeadow Lane, Norton Road, and Parkview Roads were also discussed. There are damaged and or missing signs on Cross Creek. Ms. Giusti stated signs were reported stolen at the Winesap entrance of Bicentennial Park, although they are unsure what signs were previously there, they can be replaced with the new signs.

On June 22nd Commission Lewis with the CFPA will be walking the trail that goes through some property frontages on Summit Wood Drive for a possible trail relocation.

II. Community Garden

Maureen stated that the Community Garden is running well this year. The solar water supply has helped reduce calls to the Town. Grounds Superintendent Steve Wood and the garden coordinator have a good working relationship and the Commission thanked Land Use Administrator Fran Semnoski for her assistance coordinating the garden.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hoffman stated that he updated the Land Care Volunteer information form, which had been used years ago, and distributed to members for comment at the next meeting. He added that the new report encompasses the original report items along with items previously discussed to add to it. Commissioner Hoffman will email the report to Commissioner Lewis. He noted as he recalled, the volunteers in the past had been appointed by the Town Council.

Chairman DeLorenzo reminded the Commission that the new Zoning Enforcement Officer is available to investigate any issues they may come upon, such as erosion control issues so make sure to let Maureen or Pauley know of anything that needs to be investigated.

Ms. Giusti stated that 2215 Chamberlain Highway was sold yesterday. All previous easements are stated in the deed to the new owner. New owners have stated that they plan to continue with agriculture use on the property. She noted that the southerly owner, Ed Grimm, has graded and graveled the proposed relocated parking area two lots down.

The newest edit of the Plan of Conservation and Development plan dated May 11, 2023, is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's office and Planning and Zoning office and has been posted on the Town website. the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold the Public Hearing on June 15, 2023, prior considering adoption the Plan.

The Run Ragged Bike race that was scheduled to be held at Hatchery Brook on May 20, 2023, was postponed due to rain. The race has been rescheduled with the same conditions as previously approved.

Commissioner Ramsey stated that his current email address will need to be updated. He will provide the new email to Ms. Giusti and the Town Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ramsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Pagliaro. Passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Lisa Bush
Recording Secretary

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
BERLIN TOWN CLERK

2023 JUN 23 PM 12:46

Katryn J. Wall

BERLIN, CT.