Town of Canaan

Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission

Minutes of June 17, 2019

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Felicia Jones, Susan Kelsey, Shamu Sadeh

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Minutes of May 20, 2019 were read. Motion made by Jones to approve minutes as read; seconded by Sadeh; passed unanimously.

**Public Input:** None.

**Old Business:**

**1. Wetland Regulations:** Jones reported that she spoke with Chip Roraback, town attorney, and that he is in receipt of and is reviewing the regulations. He expressed concern in regards to ensuring our revised regulations have incorporated all the state statutes that have been passed subsequent to the latest model regulations. She will have available at our next meeting the draft inland wetlands application form for the Commission’s review and approval.

**2.** **Beebe Hill Watershed:** Sadeh reported that NRCS is going to contact Tom Coolidge in an attempt to discuss the erosion problems occurring on his property. The NRCS engineer has been to the site twice. NRCS acknowledges that the erosion situation within the Beebe Hill watershed is the result of a project they had initially designed and has expressed a willingness to work on this situation.

**3. Falls Village Housing Trust:** Jones informed the Commission that the Falls Village Housing Trust has withdrawn its application from P&Z, primarily due to acrimony among residents. The Trust will be applying again after a CERC municipal training session for town commission members (July 11th) and a town forum that will be open to the community (September 13th). The Trust is not sure of the location of the future site but is researching several alternative sites; one individual has offered a portion of their property as a possible site. If the River Road site is ultimately used, the project would be downscaled and set further back from the road. Jones queried if it would be necessary for the Housing Trust to reapply to the IW/CC when they proceed with a new plan if the same River Road site is used. By consensus, the Commission felt this decision could not be made prior to reviewing new site plans.

**4. Railroad Bridge Replacement, Belden Street:** Kelsey reported having not yet made a site inspection of the area in the vicinity of the railroad bridge replacement. She will try to make said inspection prior to the next meeting.

**5. Elm Trees:** Members are unaware if Bartlett has yet treated the two elms; no bill has yet been received by the Commission. Jones will check with the treasurer to see if any payment has been made; payment for the said services were to be divided between the current and upcoming fiscal year budgets.

**New Business:**

**1.** **Greenprint Initiative and Farmland Viability:** Sadeh reported on having attended an information session on the “Greenprint Initiative” (greenprint.org), which is a program focusing on connecting large tracts of interior forests (250 acres minimum) in an attempt to preserve their ecological integrity. The session also focused on farm viability and watershed protection. Warren, CT has embarked on an extensive program to assess that town’s farmland as agricultural is Warren’s primary remaining viable source of potential revenue and economic viability within the town.

**Routing Sheets:** None.

**Communications:**

**1. NextEra Energy Resources:** A letter of notification dated June 12, 2019 was received from NextEra Energy Resource/Distributed Generation. NextEra is requesting an amendment to the Connecticut Siting Council’s original ruling for a solar array by SolarCity Corporation at Becton, Dickinson & Co. in North Canaan. The amendment is for the placement of solar panels on the rooftop of BD’s existing building.

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary