INLAND WETLANDS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Felicia Jones, Susan Kelsey, Ellery Sinclair

Others Present: Brian Neff, engineer, Faye Lawson, Lori Lawson

Meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m by Chairman Burdick. Minutes of October 21, 2019 were read. Motion made by Jones to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously.

**Public Input:** None.

**New Business:**

**1. Lawson Application, 16 Six Rod Road:** An application was received from Faye Lawson, owner of property at 16 Six Rod Road; an engineering plan titled “Driveway Drainage Pipe Extension, The Lawson Residence, 16 Six Rod Road, Canaan, Connecticut, Date: 11-10-19, Sheet 1 of 1, Brian E. Neff, Licensed Engineer” was included as part of the application. The application and plan were reviewed for completeness. Kelsey made a motion to accept the application for review; seconded by Jones; passed unanimously. The application proposed replacing the existing 18’ culvert under the driveway with a 24” culvert and extending the culvert approximately 100 feet southwest of the driveway. The existing culvert is unable to handle the amount of waterflow originating upslope within the Beebe Hill Watershed; the waterflow has resulted in an intermittent watercourse/drainageway that flows across the Lawson property. The drainage has caused severe erosion and the creation of deep gullies on the Lawson and abutting properties, including the firehouse property across Route 7. Neff reviewed the plan that proposed removing the existing 18” pipe, excavating a trench for a new 24” culvert that will extend approximately 100 feet west of the driveway, and installing the culvert with flared ends at both the inlet and outlet. An 8’ x 10’ riprapped area will be installed at the culvert outlet. Excavated material will be used to fill in the gully below the driveway. The disturbed area will be stabilized; staked hay bales will be used for erosion control. The projected duration of the project is three days. Kelsey made a **motion to approve the application with the following findings and conditions:**

**Findings:** 1) The Lawson property is being severely eroded by an intermittent watercourse/drainageway due to an inordinate amount of drainage flowing off of Beebe Hill. 2) The current 18” culvert under the Lawson driveway is not big enough to accommodate the waterflow, particularly during heavy downpours. 3) The Commission’s efforts to secure assistance from Natural Resources Conservation Services regarding drainage issues within the Beebe Hill Watershed have proven unsuccessful. 4) The soil in the Beebe Hill Watershed is highly erodible. 5) The engineering plan proposes a larger 24” culvert and its extension downgrade for approximately 100 feet to reduce erosion and to accommodate the waterflow. 6) Proposed flares at the inlet and outlet of the culvert will serve to stabilize the drainageway. 7) A riprapped pad below the outlet will serve to decrease the velocity of the waterflow. 8) The plan outlines acceptable soil erosion control measures. 9) Work should be completed within 3 days.

**Conditions:** 1) All work will be completed as detailed on above-referenced engineering plans and performed during dry conditions. 2) Erosion control measures (including regular monitoring), as outlined on above-referenced engineering plan will be followed. 3) Riprapping will be according to DOT specifications. 4) The Commission will be notified at start of job. 5) Brian Neff will serve as the Commission’s contact person. Motion was seconded by Jones; passed unanimously. Kelsey will issue a permit.

**Old Business:**

**1. HVA Culvert Project:** Kelsey has not yet contacted HVA regarding their town culvert assessment project but will attempt to gather information for the December meeting.

**2.** **Wetlands Regulations:** Members continued to review the last revisions incorporated into the revised regulations. Discussion focused on the “Timber Harvesting” form that has been considered for incorporation in some capacity into the application process. Members are struggling with how to receive notification of a pending timber harvest when it is considered a use of right. An acceptable definition of “timber harvesting” is still needed. Sinclair will work on revising the form.

**3. Trail Clean-up:** Jones reported that she did walk the trail with a representative from AMC. The representative felt that the trail is in need of significant work (the trail needs to be reblazed, widened, and the barberry removed). A major trail upgrade is planned for spring of 2020. The parking lot will also be improved, with a new trail access planned from the parking lot.

**Routing Sheets:** None.

**Communications:**

**1. Forest Management Plan, Wangum Lake Block:** A draft copy of a management plan for the Wangum Lake Block of the Centennial Watershed State Forest was received from Jerry Milne of the CT DEEP Forestry Division. The Commission can review and submit comments by Dec. 2, 2019. Kelsey will review the plan.

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary