TOWN OF CANAAN

INLAND WETLNADS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING, MAY 21, 2020

[MEETING CONDUCTED VIA “ZOOM”]

Participating Members : Mark Burdick, Brant Burz, Felicia Jones, Susan Kelsey, Ellery Sinclair (by phone).

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Burdick. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 16, 2020, which had been distributed via email to members for review; seconded by Burdick; passed unanimously. Sinclair made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 20, 2020, which had also been distributed via email; seconded by Jones; passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**1. HVRHS Invasive Plant Control Permit Assignment:**  Kelsey informed the Commission that she had received a call from Tom Zetterstrom who said the job for which our Commission had issued a permit needed to be put out to bid. He inquired what the protocol would be if the bid went to an individual other than for whom the permit was issued (i.e. Christian Allyn). Kelsey told him that the Commission could reassign the permit to another individual, providing all the permit conditions were followed. Zetterstrom will contact Kelsey should the permit need reassignment.

**2. Regulations:** Jones informed the Commission that in light of the Covid virus, the State is allowing Selectmen to act on various town matters without holding a town meeting. Kelsey will contact the State to clarify the procedure for updating regulations. Burdick suggested possibly putting our draft regulations on-line on the town’s website and announcing their availability for review and comment. A limited time for comment would need to be set. Jones will talk to Selectman Todd about putting the regulations on the Town’s website.

**New Business:**

**1. Route 7 Fuels/American Petroleum:** Kelsey reported that she has been in regular communication with both Jim Lantowski of American Petroleum and Don Gonyea of DEEP regarding the progress of treating and discharging contaminated water at the gas station. She informed them of the Commission’s commitment to ensure the integrity of Robbins Swamp is not compromised. Gonyea said treatment of contaminated water with a double carbon filtration system is standard operating procedure within the State and treats the water contaminants to non-detectable and/or acceptable levels (“…this water is clean water, no sediment or contaminants.”). Said treatment falls under the permitting jurisdiction of the ‘Water Permitting & Enforcement Division’ of the DEEP. Gonyea also said that it is his interpretation that DEEP handles this type of discharge as long as there is no physical degradation to the wetlands. AP is no longer proposing to discharge treated water into the catchbasin that drains westerly under Route 7 as the culvert is silted in and would require another, separate permit from the DOT. The DEEP has approved discharging the treated water into the ground in the area that has not yet been repaved (i.e. where the new tanks have been installed). The water being discharged will be sampled at specified times throughout the discharge process, which will be over several days; the rate of discharge will be dependent on the rate of percolation. Kelsey said that the soil of the area proposed to receive the water is a nonwetland soil. By consensus, the Commission agreed to allow AP to discharge the treated water (which has been deemed “potable” by DEEP) onsite with the proviso that the Commission be provided with several water test results conducted throughout the discharge process and that we receive a copy of the NDDB communication. Kelsey will contact Lantowski and Gonyea to apprise them of the Commission’s action.

**2.** **Sustainable CT:** Jones informed the Commission that the Selectmen have signed a resolution to join Sustainable Connecticut, an organization that offers towns the opportunity to receive guidance and funding for projects qualifying under “sustainability”. (Sustainable CT helped fund the “pollinator gardens” on Main Street). The organization is funded by several foundations. The goal is for a town to become certified at either the Bronze or Silver level; Cornwall has already become certified at the Bronze level. To become certified, towns complete one project in each of nine areas which all encourage sustainability. The Selectmen are requesting that a committee be formed to facilitate certification and that said committee be under the guidance of the Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission. Burdick recommended that members review the website for Sustainable CT and that we revisit the proposal at our June meeting.

**3. Lanier’s Brook:** Jones informed the Commission that the Lanier’s have voiced concern regarding what appears to be a periodic oil sheen in their brook that traverses their property on Brewster Street. Burz volunteered to walk upstream to investigate the situation.

**Routing Sheets:**

**1. Robert Gallagher, 354 Route 7N:** Inground pool.

**2.** **Dan Odell, 293 Route 7N:** New house construction (subdivision).

**Communications:** None.

Motion made by Kelsey to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary