TOWN OF CANAAN

INLAND WETLANDS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR (ZOOM) MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. by Chairman Burdick. Jones made a motion to accept minutes of January 19, 2021; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously.

**Public Input:** none.

**Old Business:**

**1. Hemp Farm, Stein Lane:** Burdick reported that he had sent a letter to Bogdan Pawezka informing him of the Commission’s interest in having a soil scientist test the soil type of the area where he is growing hemp, and would he consider helping defray the cost of said soil testing. As of this meeting, no response has been received. A follow up letter will be sent with a 2 week timeframe in which to respond. Burz suggested possibly waiting until spring to look for evidence of a high water table. Pawezka had originally said he wanted this issue resolved before spring in order for him to proceed with placing his order for more plants. Burdick and Kelsey will proceed with a follow-up letter.

**2.** **Housatonic Railroad Spraying:** Sinclair shared Massachusetts state statutes regarding rights of way management, specifically in regards to pesticide application. Massachusetts regulations mention wetlands as being sensitive areas and contain specific restrictions for pesticide usage in or near wetlands or rivers (e.g. no drift allowed in area within 10 feet of wetlands or rivers and no herbicide usage within 400 feet of water supply). Notification of spraying is required 21 days prior to the activity. There is also a ROW Advisory Panel. Sinclair will send copy of these regulations to Maria Horn, highlighting sections pertinent to wetlands and watercourses (“33CMR 11.00 ROW Management”).

**3. Sustainable CT:** Jones reported she continues to build a committee for Sustainable CT. She is hoping to coordinate with the Appalachian Mountain Club and Habitat for Humanity to perform maintenance work on the Mohawk Trail. Habitat has donated a parking lot to facilitate access to the trail. Burdick asked if agriculture was a part of Sustainable CT. Jones said that it is primarily focused on three areas: equity, energy, and recycling; she will verify what projects for certification are possibly agriculture oriented. Burdick expressed concern regarding the quantity of wood that is being put in bulky waste at the transfer station; Jones said that the operation of the transfer station is a possible Sustainable CT project.

**4. Route 7 Fuels:** Sinclair queried as to when the soil at the gas station is scheduled to be removed. Burdick will inquire with Selectman Todd.

**New Business:** None.

**Routing Sheets:** None.

**Communications:** None.

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 P.M.; seconded by Jones; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary