**Town of Canaan**

**Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**December 20, 2021**

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Chairman Burdick. Jones moved to approve minutes of November 15, 2021 with the following correction: that the spelling of the word “waddle” be changed to “wattle”; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**1. Commission Regulations and Application:** Jones will follow up with the Town’s website designer to ensure easy public accessibility to our regulations and application.

**2.** **Railroad Spraying:** Sinclair reported that Stacey Weiner continues to pursue the assistance of legislative leaders in addressing railroad spraying in sensitive areas and recently had contacted Johanna Hayes.

**New Business:**

**1. Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center Application:** A check and application to demolish a building in proximity to a pond on the property was received. Kelsey made a motion to accept the application for review; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously. Kelsey made a motion to approve the application with the following findings and conditions:

**Findings:**

1. The proposed activity is within the upland review area.

2. The building to be removed is on cinder block piers.

3. All building materials associated with the demolition will be removed off-site.

4. The site will be graded with topsoil, seeded and ultimately maintained as lawn.

5. Removal of the structure would decrease amount of impervious surface area in proximity to pond.

**Conditions:**

1. Prior to demolition, siltfencing and/or staked hay bales will be installed between the pond and the building proposed for removal.

2. The disturbed area will be stabilized prior to removing installed erosion control measures.

3. Erosion control measures will be regularly monitored until area is stabilized.

4. In the event there is a need to temporarily stockpile any dirt, siltfencing will be installed downslope.

4. Shamu Sadeh will serve as the contact person for the project and will monitor the activity to ensure no sedimentation enters the ponds.

5. The Commission will notify the Commission prior to the project’s start.

Motion was seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously. Kelsey will issue a permit.

**2. Community Resiliency Building Workshop:** Jones reported that our town has been chosen to participate in a workshop offered by The Nature Conservancy to assess issues specific to our town. The program consists of two workshops, to be attended by 12-18 residents representing various concerns of the town. There is pre-workshop work for participants to complete prior to attending the workshops. There will also be a preworkshop survey available for any interested resident to complete. Upon completion of the workshops, the Nature Conservancy will prepare a report for the town, which would then be submitted to Sustainable CT for review in conjunction with obtaining funding for suggested projects. Jones is amassing a list of potential participants for the workshop.

**3. Wetland Inquiry:** Kelsey reported that she had received an inquiry regarding wetlands on a piece of land for sale just south of Point of Rocks. She prepared a packet for the potential buyer that included a soils map and information regarding the several soil types associated with the parcel.

**4. Cobble Hill Purchase/Easement:** Sinclair inquired if members knew whether the property for sale on Cobble Hill had been purchased; members were unaware of a sale. He also informed the Commission of a new conservation easement in favor of The Nature Conservancy on a property in Falls Village, but had yet to ascertain the subject property; Kelsey will check land records.

**5. Election of Officers for 2022:** Sinclair made a motion that the Commission retain the same slate of officers for 2022 (i.e. Burdick: Chairman; Sinclair: Vice Chairman; Kelsey: Secretary.); seconded by Kelsey; passed unanimously.

**6. Meeting date for 2022:** Sinclair made a motion that the Commission continue to meet on the third Monday of the month, except for when that day is a holiday; when said Monday is a holiday, the meeting will occur on the following day (Tuesday). Motion seconded by Kelsey; passed unanimously.

**Routing Sheet:**

**1. 16 Route 7 Holdings, LLC:** 16’ x 32’ second story porch. 11-18-2021.

**Communications:**

**1. Pawezka:** Payment of $217.50 for soil testing on Stein Lane was received from Pawezka.

**2.** **Budget:** As of 10/31/21, $1,916.98 remained in the Commission’s budget.

**3. Connecticut Land Conservation Council Donation Request:**  Sinclair made a motion that the commission contribute $100 to CLCC; seconded by Kelsey; passed unanimously.

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.; seconded by Jones; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary