

TOWN OF CANAAN  
INLAND WETLANDS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Matt Gallagher, Susan Kelsey, Ellery Sinclair  
Others Present: Selectmen Greg Marlowe and Dave Barger

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Burdick at 7:05 p.m. Minutes of August 21, 2023 were reviewed. Sinclair made motion to approve minutes with the following correction: that under 5.A., "Milton" be changed to "Morris"; seconded by Gallagher; passed unanimously.

**1. Public Input:** none.

**2. Old Business:**

**A. Housatonic Working Group/Herbicide Spraying:** Sinclair reported that a member of the HWG participated in a zoom meeting of the CT Water Policies Council and that the Council was impressed by HWG's presentation. The CT WPC encouraged the HWG to initiate communication with the CT DOT regarding railroad right of way herbicide spraying.

**B. Proposed Town Farm Solar Panel Array:** The Selectmen led a discussion regarding the proposal for an approximate 1-acre solar panel array to be located on Town Farm property. It is anticipated that said panels would ultimately generate enough power to pay for electrical costs associated with town-owned buildings. Burdick reiterated the Commission's concern regarding any construction and potential obstruction within the Hollenbeck River's floodway, per delineated on the FEMA Floodplain Maps. The conversion of potential agricultural land is of equal concern to the Commission. Kelsey had recently visited the property and noted a potential alternate site removed from the floodplain. Marlowe commented that there are numerous groups with diverse interests in the Town Farm property and suggested that a site walk be scheduled to inspect the property and hopefully select several potential sites acceptable to all parties, including the solar company. The Selectmen will work on scheduling a site visit and will notify Town commissions and boards (i.e. Recreation, Board of Finance, Planning and Zoning, and Inland Wetlands/Conservation).

**C. Town Plan of Conservation and Development:** Sinclair read a letter dated 9-12-2023 he wrote for the IW/CC to Glen Chalder (planner) and Fred Laser (P&Z) regarding the proposal to reroute traffic to Railroad Street from south on Route 7 and relocate the Town Highway facility. Concerns of herbicide use along the railroad, the Housatonic River and other water resources were also mentioned. There will be a public meeting regarding the proposed Town Plan at Kellogg School on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**D. Forestry Advisory Committee:** Gallagher reiterated that the town currently operating a town fuelwood program is Morris, not Milton. He will attempt to research Morris' program and Kelsey will contact Nick Zito at the DEEP Forestry Division for additional information for said fuelwood programs. The bill for the elm tree treatment on Brewster Street (\$551) was submitted and paid.

### **3. New Business:**

**A. Isabella Freedman Retreat Center Composting Program:** Marlowe expressed concerns regarding the quantity of potentially compostable material received as trash at the transfer station and the associated costs with its transportation offsite. Establishing Town composting programs are under State regulation, making it both difficult and expensive. He is scheduled to meet with Shamu Sadeh to discuss the current composting program being conducted at Camp Freedman. Questions he hopes to have answered regarding their program include: 1) How do they address potential vermin attraction? 2) How do they actually process the material? and 3) What permitting, if any, is required?

### **4. Routing Sheets:**

**A. S&V At FV, LLC, 64 Rt 7 N:** 28' X 36' 3-car garage.

**B. Joseph & Theresa Graney, 14 Stein Lane:** 9' X 11' enclosed porch.

**C. 11 Route 7N LLC, 11 Rt 7N:** Deck extension.

**D. Aquarion Water Company, 38 Wangum Lake Road:** Temporary logging access.

### **5. Communications:**

**A. Fiscal Year Budget:** As of 8-31-2023, \$551.00 had been expended out of the Commission's annual budget of \$2,250.00.

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.; seconded by Kelsey; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary