

Town of Canaan  
Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
October 16, 2023

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Brant Burz, Matthew Gallagher, Susan Kelsey, Ellery Sinclair.

Others Present: M. Farren

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Burdick. Minutes of September 18, 2023 were reviewed. Sinclair made a motion to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Burdick; passed unanimously.

**Public Input:** none

**Old Business:**

**A. Town Plan of Conservation and Development:** Kelsey reported on the September 30<sup>th</sup> Town informational meeting she intended at which Glen Chalder, planner, gave a presentation of the proposed TPOCD. At the meeting, Kelsey reiterated the Commission's hopes that the Plan includes advocacy for railroad herbicide spraying regulations along the railroad, Housatonic River and wetlands. There was much community participation at the meeting; many comments expressed concern about the Plan advocating additional traffic flow to the town center. The P&Z will be reaching out to town boards and commissions over the next few months for additional input. Kelsey will contact P&Z Chairman Fred Laser, expressing the Commission's desire to be involved in the final draft of the Plan.

**B. Housatonic Working Group:** The Group has not yet reached out to the CT DOT regarding railroad herbicide spraying. A letter has been sent to the CEQ asking the CEQ to write letters in support of the HWG to legislators and other individuals that they might deem appropriate.

**C. Town Farm Potential Solar Array Site Visit:** Burdick reported on the site visit on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Town Farm with representatives from several town commissions and boards with vested interests in the proposal for the installation of an acre array of solar panels. Several acceptable sites were agreed upon, including: 1) on top of the old bulky waste landfill, 2) on the slope, back from the electric pole in the field near the bridge access off Route 126, 3) where wood chips are currently stockpiled, and 4) on top of the knoll, to the left as you drive into the transfer station, behind the clothing bins. The Selectmen will suggest these sites to the solar panel company. The bottom line is that the panels will not be sited within the floodplain or floodway of the Hollenbeck River.

**D. Forestry Advisory Committee:**

**1. Fuelwood Program:** Gallagher has not yet been able to research the fuelwood program in Morris. Kelsey is waiting for a response to a request for additional information on town fuelwood programs from the CT DEEP Forestry Division.

**E. Cobble Road Culvert Replacement:** Sinclair queried about the status of the proposed Cobble Road culvert replacement. Consensus was that it is still on the docket.

**New Business:**

**1. Aquarion Water Company, 'Notification of Timber Harvest':** A 'Notification of Timber Harvest' was received from Rob Turnbull for Aquarion Water Company for a pending selection and ash pre-salvage harvest of 114,000 Board Feet on 28 acres. The duration of the harvest is anticipated to be from January through August 2024. Consensus of members was that additional information is needed including a map (preferably a topographic map) showing the specific area of the harvest, the location of primary skid roads, and the location of any wetlands and potential watercourse crossings within the harvest area. Kelsey will ask Turnbull for the additional information.

**2. Flaton/Beurgi/Lancto Application, 166 Undermountain Road:** [Sinclair recused himself from participating in discussion of the application.] An application was received from Chris Lancto, as agent for Carol Flaton, a property owner of 166 Undermountain Road. A check for \$135 and an email from Flaton authorizing Lancto to serve as her agent, were also received. The application cited the following proposed activities: farmland restoration, invasive plant removal, old barn site cleanup and land prep for a potential building site. Kelsey moved that the application be accepted for review; seconded by Gallagher; passed unanimously (excluding Sinclair). Kelsey informed the Commission she had received several inquiries regarding the activity occurring at 166 Undermountain Road, to which she responded that to date, the Commission had not received any information regarding proposed activities on the aforementioned property. Kelsey drove by the property and noticed a silt fence in proximity to Ledgy Brook and several pieces of equipment on the premises and evidence of earth disturbance. Subsequently, she received a call from Lancto inquiring if wetland applications were necessary and Kelsey advised him to submit an application. The consensus of the members was that a site visit would be appropriate due to a significant watercourse and wetlands on the parcel. Kelsey will contact Lancto to set up a time for said visit.

**Routing Sheets:**

**1. Bridgeview Management, 20 Sand Road:** 12' x 16' shed on crushed stone.

**Communications:** none

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.; seconded by Gallagher; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary