

Town of Canaan  
Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
November 20, 2023

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Susan Kelsey, Ellery Sinclair, Marleen VanGulick  
Others Present: First Selectman David Barger

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by Chairman Burdick. Minutes of regular meeting of October 16, 2023 were reviewed. Sinclair made a motion to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Kelsey; passed unanimously. Minutes of special meeting of October 21, 2023 were reviewed. Burdick made a motion to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Kelsey; passed unanimously.

**Public Input:** None.

**Old Business:**

**1. Flaton/Beurgi (Chris Lancto, agent) Application, 166 Undermountain Rd.:**

Burdick reviewed the special meeting held on-site on October 21, 2023. Sinclair recused himself from the agenda item. The application was reviewed again. Burdick reiterated that certain activities performed in conjunction with farming operations are permitted uses as of right. Kelsey made a motion to approve the application with the following findings and conditions:

**Findings:**

1. Application is for restoration of farmland, removal of invasive plants, cleaning up of old barn site, and preparing land for potential building site.
2. Much of the property is currently being farmed (hayed).
3. The CT Natural Diversity Data Base map shows that the entire subject property area is known habitat of state and federal listed species.
4. Historically, there was a house and barn on the property off Undermountain Rd.
5. The application is for site preparation of one potential house site in the vicinity of the former barn; soil disturbance/excavation was noted in area of old barn site.
6. Significant clearing of hedgerows was noted in attempt to expand agricultural land.
7. There is a significant brook (Ledgy Brook) on the western edge of the property running parallel to Barnes Road that drains into Wangum Brook.
8. Silt fences have been installed along the upper portions of Ledgy Brook.
9. Some boulders have been removed from the interior portions of the field to facilitate mowing operations.
10. The entire property slopes toward and drains into Wangum Brook.

**Conditions:**

1. Approval is solely for activities referenced in #1 of Findings, above.
2. No sedimentation is to be introduced into Ledgy Brook, Wangum Brook or associated wetlands.
3. Silt fencing is to be installed downslope of any disturbed areas subject to erosion.
4. Disturbed areas subject to erosion are to be stabilized by seeding and mulching.

5. If any work is being considered in areas of swales, it is recommended that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and/or the Northwest Conservation District be consulted.

6. Chris Lancto (agent for property owners) will serve as contact person.

Burdick seconded the motion. Votes in favor of motion: Kelsey, Burdick, VanGulick. Abstention: Sinclair; motion carried. Kelsey will issue permit.

**2. Aquarion Logging Job:** A map delineating the harvest area was submitted by Rob Turnbull, forester for Aquarion. There are no stream crossings planned and a small interior wetland is excluded from the harvest. Kelsey will text Turnbull requesting that he notify the Commission at the job's inception.

**3. Railroad Herbicide Spraying:** Sinclair reported that a meeting with State Representative Maria Horn is in the process of being scheduled. The Housatonic River Working Group is also planning to meet with the Housatonic River Commission. The HRWG hopes to garner as much support as possible to bring railroad spaying regulations in Connecticut to fruition. The DEEP is willing to water sampling in selected areas at the request of the HRWG.

**4. Town Plan of Conservation and Development:** Barger informed the Commission that he has applied for a waiver with the State Library as the Town Plan will not be finalized prior to statutory deadlines. Kelsey commented that she was under the impression that subsequent to the town informational meeting regarding the Plan, town commissions and boards were going to be asked for additional input.

**5. Community Fuelwood Program:** Matt Gallagher is in communication with Will Conklin, Executive Director of Greenagers and owner of the Konkapot Tree and Timber, regarding their firewood bank program. He hopes to meet with the farm's manager to discuss the management aspects of the program.

**6. Town Farm Solar Array:** Barger reported that the Board of Finance has rescinded their vote of approval for the Town to proceed with Greenleaf in the installation of a solar panel array. It is the intent to do additional research on financing and other solar companies prior to signing any contract.

#### **New Business:**

**1. Cobble Road Bridge:** A license (Section 401 Water Quality Certification) has been issued by the DEEP for the replacement of the bridge over Wangum Brook. Project includes replacement of a corrugated metal pipe with two 137" X 87" polymer coated corrugated metal pipes, installation of new headwall and wingwalls, reconstructing 300 feet of roadway and temporary installation of two , 36" bypass pipes and cofferdams for water handling during construction. Barger said that the Town is still seeking funding for the project.

**Routing Sheets:** None.

Kelsey made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary

