## Town of North Canaan

## Inland Wetlands

## July 22, 2021

## Regular Meeting

Present: Matt Freund Chairman, Barry Brown, Brian Allyn Jr., Eric Whiting, Chris Crane

Call to order 7:00pm

**Mr. Whiting made a motion to approve the minutes from prior meeting. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

127/129 Church Street inspection – Chairman Freund stated his understanding is this has been resolved and there is no further violations occurring. Sue Boults stated that is correct and further issues are in the zoning board’s hands now.

Water drainage issue at 535 West main Street. Property owner showed pictures of flooding and a ditch allegedly dug by Ben Wohlfert former owner of the property now owned by Ryan Foley. The applicant is requesting that they be allowed to fill in the trench as it has created flooding issues on their property where non existed before. The ditch was created about 3 years ago. The property owner stated that there were tiered ponds in front of the property which used to keep the flooding at bay, but that no longer happens. Mr. Freund explained that although the ditch being dug was inappropriate the commission cannot legal just allow them to fill it in if it is in a wetlands area. The only way to move forward would be for the property owner to get an engineer to look at the property and come up with a plan to present to the commission. Discussion ensued about payment for an engineer as the applicant feels they cannot afford to do that. There was further discussion of the location of the property on the map, where the wetlands might be (they would need to be flagged). Selectman Whiting was in attendance at the meeting and said the culvert was built before the pond. Selectman Whiting offered to work on research and include Selectman Perotti to figure out how to come up with a plan to work with everyone. Mr. Freund stated the first step is to at least get an engineer out and come up with an estimate for the plan and work – this wouldn’t cost anything. Mr. Whiting will work on this and Mr. Freund and Mr. O’Connor will meet with the engineer as well to talk things over and figure out possibilities to bring back to the next meeting. The town will reach out to neighbors as well if needed.

Robert Sprague - did not show up for meeting.

Invasive species – Native Habitat Restoration presented before the commission that they are going to be working on removing invasive species from a property on Honey Hill Rd. Engineer George Johannessen stated there are no wetlands in the area they are treating. They gave an explanation of the process including the cut and paint and individual spot treatment. There is approximately 8 acres that will be included in the treatment plan. **Mr. Brown made a motion seeing this has no impact on wetlands that the commission sees no problem with the project and it can go forward. Mr. Whiting seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

Konkapot River – conversation ensued regarding flooding due to the State doing work in the river several years prior. Mr. Freund asked complainant to present complaint in writing and he will try to get it to the appropriate person to move it forward.

No correspondence

Mr. Freund had one sign-off not in a wetlands area. For the record he wanted to state that he never said the town would pay for the flooding issue.

**Mr. Whiting made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary