



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

City of Ansonia

CONNECTICUT 06401

RECEIVED FOR FILE

11 MAY 23 PM 3:19

Madeline H. Bottone

TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

May 17, 2011

Present: William Urban, Chairman
Randy Carroll
Frank Pergola

Absent: Tim Holman
John Jones

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Urban.

The secretary called the roll.

There was a quorum present.

Public Session

Chairman Urban asked three (3) times if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the commission. There being none he called for a motion to close the public session.

Mr. Pergola made a motion to close the public session. Mr. Carroll seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Minutes

Mr. Carroll made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the March 15, 2011 meeting. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Bills

CC051711

Mr. Carroll made a motion to pay all bills if found to be correct. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Correspondence

Mr. Pergola made a motion to accept all of the correspondence received, dispense with the reading, and place them on file. If a member requests one read or acted upon the correspondence will be brought up individually. Mr. Carroll seconded. All in favor, so carried.

1. The Habitat, Spring 2011

Referrals

1. Castle Lane Subdivision: 23 Lot subdivision on Castle Lane, Ansonia

Chairman Urban said there is a referral from Inland Wetlands Commission. He asked if the Commission members received their copies of the maps.

The members received a copy of the application and map.

Mr. Pergola said he attended the special meeting/site walk held by the Inland Wetlands Commission at Castle Lane. Mr. Pergola gave a review of the site to the members.

Chairman Urban said the rock formation underlying the site of the proposed subdivision is noted for having fractured bedrock aquifers which when they surface become streams and are thereby regulated areas. The granite and granite gneiss is interspersed with springs. Colony Pond is a restored aquatic eco-system. The restoration of the Pond was recently completed by the Connecticut DEP.

Ansonia has a history of many 100 year and over 100 year storms especially beginning in 1979 and causing much flooding and damage to property. Ansonia already has had a storm which surpassed a 130 year storm in 1982.

Chairman Urban said that this application must go to Southwest Conservation District, DEP, King's Mark, and VCOG because it is near the Seymour border and involves two towns. All said that it should be sent to the Seymour IWC also for their review and comment and possibly a permit from Seymour also. It is basically on the crest of a hill.

Mr. Carroll said that this property is basically very very steep and there are all wells serving the homes currently there. All of the dwellings existing and proposed will have the same source of water.

CC051711

Chairman Urban said the rock formation upon which the subdivision is proposed is extensive and has a long history of fractured bedrock aquifer exposure especially under man-made disturbance. Such surfacing may or may not occur annually and has been documented in the Cities of Ansonia and Seymour over a great many years.

Mr. Pergola said he is concerned this proposal will be drawing water from in the rock formation and depleting the wells and their integrity.

Chairman Urban and the commission members discussed the following questions that must be answered:

1. Is there blasting proposed? If so how much and where.
2. Is it proposed that the drinking water is to be drawn from the onsite wells in such a tightly packed subdivision and depending if the water is to be drawn from fractured bedrock aquifers then extremely great consideration must be given that any sort of blasting or rock moving or rock removal may alter or extinguish such aquifers.
3. Has there been any dumping of rock or other fill on this site already?
4. From 1970 to 1984 the City of Ansonia had four 100 year storms and two were Federal Disaster Area Storms
5. How will the water flow off the development affect the water quality in Colony Pond?
6. Colony Pond is in a watershed – the stream that feeds Colony Pond flows from Seymour.
7. The eco-system in and around Colony Pond is heavily shaded by an Oak/Mixed hardwood forest.
8. Will there will be obstructions to the Fire Dept. in putting out hillside fires?
9. Colony Pond drains under Colony Street to Brookside Ave. pond down to the Naugatuck River.
10. Will there be walls constructed – how high and how long?
11. Will there be clearing down the sides of the hill on the bank – Colony Pond would be a silt collector from the run off.
12. Are there rare, threatened and endangered species on site? An inventory of the site is necessary.
13. Is there phased construction for the project?

Chairman Urban said there must be a very well financed plan i.e. Homeowners Association and Maintenance Agreement for any detention facility with clear enforceable protection and maintenance plan in place with more than sufficient money deposited under control of the City deposited and designated for any such construction. After completion the Homeowners Association must have funds deposited in perpetuity for the maintenance of the detention facility.

It is noted that there is a 100 foot difference in the slope according to the proposals maps.

Chairman Urban said there were a great many fires in that area. They would be ground fires contained by the Fire Dept. that would have to be put out and access may be cut off by the houses.

CC051711

Chairman Urban said based on historic records, frequent fires up slope of Abe Stone Park have gone into the surrounding woodland.

Mr. Pergola said if the only access to this land is through Seymour wouldn't they have to go to Seymour for approval?

The commissioners discussed that the Open Space parcel has the detention pond on it. They said Open Space is for usable recreational use and not for a detention basin.

Mr. Carroll made a motion to include in the letter to IWC their recommendation that the application be forwarded to Southwest Conservation District, DEP, King's Mark, Seymour and VCOG for their review and comment. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Chairman Urban asked that the Conservation Commission be invited to any site inspections that the Inland Wetlands Commission will hold for this site.

Chairman Urban said "lastly the land must determine the limits of use".

Mr. Pergola made a motion to send the comments discussed above in a letter to the Inland Wetlands Commission. Mr. Carroll seconded. All in favor, so carried.

2. Red Wing Pond Building, Ansonia Nature Center

The Friends of the Nature Center have submitted a request for a IWC permit for site plan approval for the Red Wing Pond House for a Pre-school.

There was discussion on the Nature Center and the wetlands and environment that is on the property.

The commission is concerned that there would be an adverse effect on the environment caused by the additional traffic in this area. They are also concerned with how the flow of traffic would be brought through the parking lot. Their question is how will they manage the additional traffic flow without causing environmental problems.

Mr. Carroll made a motion to send a letter to IWC referencing the above concerns. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Any other business to come before the Commission

None
CC051711

New Business

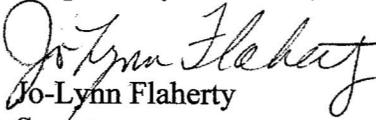
Mr. Carroll discussed State Representative Len Green's support of the Hydro-Electric Supply proposal. He asked if the Conservation Commission can send a letter supporting him.

Chairman Urban said that the commission would first have to review the proposal.

Adjourn

Mr. Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary