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By Linda Amerighi at 11:06 am, Feb 21, 2024

TOWN OF SHARON
Inland Wetland & Watercourse Commission
PO Box 385, 63 Main Street, Sharon, CT 06069

Draft minutes until approved at next regular meeting

February 20, 2024

The special meeting-postponed from February 13, due to weather, was called to order by Vice Chairman Scott Schreiber at 6:30 PM with the following members in attendance: William Trowbridge, Mike Dudek, Larry Rand, Robin Zitter, Sharon Tingley and Alt. Lynn Kearcher- seated for this meeting. Also present: George Johannesen, Ian Branson, James McTigue, Attorney Mark Capecelatro and 2 residents. Site visits were made on February 10, as posted, by Schreiber, Dudek, Trowbridge and Rand with no action taken.

2. The agenda was approved via motions of Kearcher/Tingley with all in favor and taken in order.

3. Minutes of the January meeting stood approved as posted.

4. **Communications:** a) No Public Comment. b) The corrected Invasive brochure has been received and is being distributed. There is a need to reprint for more inventory and Kearcher will get a quote. C) Mudge Pond Study: Money was approved via the BOS from the Silly Putty fund to begin a Mudge Pond Lake Study. Northeast Aquatic Research LLC – George W. Knoecklein, PhD prepared a report with recommendations dated January 9, 2024. Members were given a copy. The BOS have authorized application for a DEEP grant to follow his recommendations – Approximately \$7,000 was raised from Mudge Pond residents to fund part of the grant, as is required. The BOS will know in March whether the grant was approved.

5. **Old Business:** a) Pesticide Sub-committee – no new information. b) 2024-2025 Budget: As the line item 19a has steadily increased mostly due to the Keeler Road lawsuit – which was favorable to the Commission, it was the consensus of those present to up that figure to \$15,000 which will include a raise for the assistant to the Commission. Line items 19.a-1 and 19a-2 were discussed. Following two years of increased work, increased applications and the Keeler Road project – all members voted to increase employees pay to 5.2% (which represents 3.2% COLA* and 2% increase). Motions of Zitter/Tingley approved this increase. c) Programming: Robin Zitter, as authorized, has spoken with many including Kent Land Trust, Sharon Audubon and Joseph Markell (Educator at Cornwall Consolidated School) to create an article on the "Big Night" to be distributed amongst area towns and Land Trusts. Also,

discussion on planning an April 12th evening program to be held at Miles Sanctuary regarding amphibians. Audubon has offered to coordinate this event – which could be offered to approximately 15 people. There were questions from Commission Members – who ultimately decided that this Commission would pay the stipend of \$150 from the Turkiewicz Fund and request that Audubon coordinate the event. This was approved via motions of Tingley/Rand. Robin was thanked for her work and continued effort on this programing.

6. New Business: a) **Subdivision Review – 95 West Woods Road #2 – Lomask:** This was a site visit. George Johannesen presented the application for two lots approximately 2+ acres each. The entire parcel is now at 82+ acres which includes one dwelling. A parcel was cut out of that lot previously which has a dwelling on approximately 8.6 acres. Mr. Johannesen stated this is a difficult site to develop with ledge and wetlands. There will be two separate drives off West Woods Road #2, with an easement over one lot to access the other. Construction would extend into wetlands regulated area – and therefore each parcel would have to be an application back to this commission prior to any construction. There were concerns expressed regarding the limited areas for construction as well as the recommendation that the remaining land be deemed restricted for development. Motions of Dudek/Tingley issued a report to Planning & Zoning noting same – concerns of limited area for construction and placement of a restriction on the remaining land. All were in favor.

b) 45 Joray Road: Ian Branson presented his continued maintenance and mowing plan for the property and offered photographs of previous work and future areas of concern. Greenwood Land Management has been retained to continue the work they began. With all questions answered, motions of Kearcher/Tingley approved this as-of-right application, with all in favor.

c. 1 Low Road: This was a site visit. James McTigue of Howland & Associates presented the application to abandon the existing septic, install a sewage vault and forced main to hook into the Town Sewer System. This has been preliminarily approved by the Sewer & Water Commission. Maps of the work were shown and described. State approval is also needed for the extension on State property. Mr. McTigue was encouraged to speak with the Sharon Green Committee as part of what is maintained by them will be disturbed. With the change of silt fence to double staked hay-straw, motions of Kearcher/Rand approved this application with all in favor.

7. Applications to accept: There are four applications to accept for the next meeting: Demo structures at 82 Amenia Road; Town proposed work at 34 River Road; Construction at 56 West Woods Road #2 and additions to 103 South Main Street. All applications were accepted via motions of Rand/Tingley with all in favor.

We adjourned at 7:35 via motions of Rand/Tingley with all in favor.

Respectfully,

Jamie Casey

Land Use Admin/Clerk

Next meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024, 6:30 PM. Site visits will be scheduled and posted beginning at 8 AM at Sharon Town Hall for the following properties: 82 Amenia Road, 34 River Road, 56 West Woods Road #1 and 103 South Main Street.

*Cost of Living Adjustment