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By Linda Amerighi at 9:20 am, Apr 11, 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

April 8, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Krissel at 6:30 PM with the following members in attendance: Scott Schreiber, William Trowbridge, Mike Dudek, Larry Rand, Robin Zitter, Sharon Tingley. Also present: Tim Hunter, Jill Drew, Ben Metcalf, Joe Green and Dean Gregory. Site visits were made on April 6th, as posted, by Krissel, Schreiber, Dudek, Trowbridge, Tingley, Zitter and Rand with no action taken.

2. The agenda was approved via motions of Tingley/Rand with all in favor.
3. Minutes of the March meeting stood approved as presented.
4. **Communications:** a) No Public Comment. b) Invasive Brochure – all reprinted and distributed.
5. **Old Business:** a) Pesticide Sub-committee – no new information. Jim would like this group to meet prior to the next meeting. b) Programming: The April 12th program at Sharon Audubon is on the Town website, including an article on “The Big Night”. c) 34 River Road: It was reported that Jamie Reid has met with Cardinal Engineering. Sharon Tingley also met with Mike Jastremski and passed along information to Casey Flanagan. d) 76 Millerton Road: A wetlands report and mapping along with proposed maintenance plan is expected for next month’s meeting.
6. **New Business:** a) **103 South Main Street:** Owner Ben Metcalf presented the application for a 12’ x 18’ storage shed and construction of a pergola on his property. This was a site visit. He anticipates no disturbance as any soils will be taken off the property and the stone base of the shed will be slightly larger than the building to accommodate any runoff from the roof. The 14’ x 18’ pergola has four posts. Plantings were shown – with encouragement to use native plantings. Members thanked Mr. Metcalf for keeping the area nearest the stream not manicured. Mr. Metcalf stated he will be gathering a plan for the removal of invasives. Motions of Schreiber/Tingley approved the application, as presented, with all in favor.

b) 8 Joray Road South: Engineer Joe Green presented the application for new construction with the driveway and well to be in the regulated area of 200' from the pond across the road. This was a site visit. A soil scientist report had been submitted. The only trees to be removed are for the septic area. Any spoils will remain on site, but not stockpiled. Motions of Schreiber/Tingley approved the application as presented with all in favor.

c. Hamlin Preserve: Mr. Krissel recused himself, as he is a Board Member of the Sharon Land Trust. Vice Chair Schreiber took over the meeting: This was a site visit. Tim Hunter and Jill Drew presented the application for the proposed removal of invasives on this large Sharon Land Trust parcel. Phase 1 will involve removal of dead standing cedar (logs to be used on site), forestry mowing of cedar slash, invasive shrubs and vines and create a mulch layer over the work area expected to prevent any erosion. Once invasives resprout, the area in the mowed area (approximately 5+- acres) is to be sprayed with an herbicide formulated for wetland use. A second follow up spot treatment would be anticipated in the summer of 2025. Any forestry mowed areas will be prepared, seeded or re-seeded with conservation mix. Commission members discussed the concerns with the use of **any** herbicide especially when there are surfactants (or additives) used in conjunction with a specific herbicide. Mr. Hunter offered to provide the NDS sheets and the estimated amount of chemicals to be sprayed along with the actual amount following the application. Several photographs were shown and described copies of which should be on file with this Commission. Mr. Dudek stressed the importance of documentation as well as surveys conducted during all phases of activity (before and after). Mr. Hunter fully agreed. The consensus of those in attendance was that with serious concerns of herbicide use, the activity should be done in as dry a time as possible and no herbicide activity during breeding season. Additionally, this application only covers the spraying of the mowed area this year and the spot spraying in 2025. Any other application of any herbicides involving wetland regulated area would need to come before this Commission. Mr. Hunter will be on site during activity and will direct all volunteer workers as well as any applicators of the herbicide. Mr. Krissel returned as Chair.

d. 39 Sharon Mountain Road: Installation of a septic system with pump at the barn located on the property. This is for the installation of a 1/2 bathroom (no shower). As specified, this will not be used for habitation, but for farm office use. This was a site visit. No one was in attendance to present the application. The silt fencing shown on the plan should be replaced with double staked straw-bales. Any spoils are to be used on site, not stockpiled. It is expected that the installation will occur during the driest of times. Motions of Trowbridge/Rand approved the application, with the erosion control change. All were in favor. It is preferred that an applicant or owner be in attendance to present any application.

7. Applications to accept: 85 Jackson Road: Construction of an in-ground pool.

There was discussion on the monitoring of approved applications – and the consideration of including a monitoring period following approvals for properties with that need.

Mr. Krissel noted that the Conservation Commission will be updating their Natural Resources Inventory (2005, updated in 2015). LUA Casey will forward pertinent portions of the publication to all members for any input – especially for added invasives and recommended plantings.

In the coming months, members should try to visit the office the week prior to the meeting in order to review applications and note whether they are very interested in any or all of the applications for site visits.

We adjourned at 7:38 via motions of Schreiber/Tingley with all in favor.

Respectfully,

Jamie Casey

Land Use Admin/Clerk

Next meeting: Monday, May 13, 2024, 6:30 PM. Site visits will be scheduled and posted beginning at 8 AM at Sharon Town Hall on Saturday, May 6th.