TOWN OF NEWINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Zelek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room L101

II. ROLL CALL
Jeffrey Zelek
Andreas Sadil
Kathleen Marie Clark
John Casasanta
Peter Manke
Alan Paskewich
John Bachand

Also present:
Erik Hinckley, Inland Wetland Agent
Susan Gibbon, Recording Secretary
Gail Budrejko, Town Council Liaison

(*These minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting are verbatim.)

Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Block is going to be absent this evening, he let us know in advance, so I am going to seat Commissioner Bachand in his place. We move on to Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items. Any member of the public wishing to speak, please come forward.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (each speaker limited to 2 minutes)
Chairman Zelek: Seeing none, we move on to Acceptance of Minutes from our Regular Meeting of December 18, 2018.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES
A. Regular Meeting of December 18, 2018
Chairman Zelek: Any corrections or updates from the Commissioners?
Commissioner Paskewich: Yes.
Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Paskewich.
Commissioner Paskewich: On page 7. Actually, it is a definition. I’m not quite sure if the word is correct or not. I’m looking for a definition. About halfway down the page, Commissioner Sadil – “I’m concerned about prior we had some shielding going in to the brook there.” I’m not sure what shielding is. Would you comment on what that may mean?

Commissioner Sadil: Is that my comment there, about halfway down, my comment about the shield to the buffer?

Commissioner Paskewich: Where it says “I’m concerned about prior we had some shielding going in to the brook.”
E. Hinckley: Perhaps it was sediment, I don’t know the context.

Commissioner Clark: In the paragraph before he uses the same word and the word makes sense. So if you read the paragraph before “my concern is prior we had a wooded area that shielded the wetlands” and then he is referring to it again, I think. So if you look at that one.

Commissioner Sadil: A buffer, the shield is the buffer.

Commissioner Paskewich: Oh, yeah, right, I didn’t catch that, thanks.

Chairman Zelek: Anything else Alan?

Commissioner Paskewich: No.

Chairman Zelek: Any other commissioners?

Commissioner Sadil: I do have a comment further down. Mr. DiCioccio states “If I never made this honest mistake, you would never have any interest in that brook whatsoever.” I ask to have that maybe stricken from the record. Is that in there for good?

Chairman Zelek: We can’t strike anything from the record; anything that is said goes on the record.

Commissioner Sadil: Ok, all right. But the thing is, YOU would never have any interest, is making a comment, I can refute that. I want to refute that.

Chairman Zelek: Any other changes? Ok, seeing none, can I get a motion to accept the minutes as amended.

Commissioner Bachand: I make a motion.

Chairman Zelek: Motion by Commissioner Bachand. Can I get a second?

Commissioner Manke: I second.

Chairman Zelek: Second from Commissioner Manke. All in favor?

Commissioners: Aye.


V. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Zelek: We have none, so we will move on to Old Business. Application 2018-06, 206 Garfield St (former BOE bus garage) restoration in the URA, Owner: Town of Newington, 131 Cedar St, Newington CT 06111, Applicant: Ben Ancona, 360 Maple Hill Ave, Newington CT 06111 with a notation that this has been withdrawn.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Application 2018-06, 206 Garfield St (former BOE bus garage) restoration in the URA, Owner: Town of Newington, 131 Cedar St, Newington CT 06111, Applicant: Ben Ancona, 360 Maple Hill Ave, Newington CT 06111 (WITHDRAWN)

Chairman Zelek: Any comments Erik?

E. Hinckley: No, I received an email from Ben that said please withdraw the application with no reason given.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, any activity currently going on there in the upland review area?
E. Hinckley: Currently, the Board of Ed is installing some electrical appurtenances, without any soil disturbances, they are using the jersey barriers to lay some conduit to install heating blocks for the busses. It will be staged on the westerly edge, down by the impound lot.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, any concern or impact to the wetlands for that activity?

E. Hinckley: Not for that activity, no.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, thank you. Any comments by Commissioners? All right, seeing none, we will move on...

Commissioner Paskewich: Actually, I do.

Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Paskewich.

Commissioner Paskewich: Would it be proper for us to send a letter or correspondence asking if this is going to be completely discontinued as an application or not?

Chairman Zelek: Umm, I think that...

E. Hinckley: I can inquire.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, we will move on to the next item which is Application 2018-09, 188 Costello Road, Restoration in the URA, Owner/Applicant: 188 Costello Rd LLC, PO Box 290227, Wethersfield, CT 06129.

B. Application 2018-09, 188 Costello Road, Restoration in the URA, Owner/Applicant: 188 Costello Rd LLC, PO Box 290227, Wethersfield, CT 06129

Chairman Zelek: If the applicant is present, could they come forward please. I believe there were take-a-ways from the last meeting that you had addressed.

Mr. DiCioccio: Good evening Mr. Chair, commissioner, town staff.

Chairman Zelek: Just for the record, can you state your name and address.

Mr. DiCioccio: Brian DiCioccio, 188 Costello Road, Newington.

Chairman Zelek: Thank you.

Mr. DiCioccio: When we left the last meeting you asked me to hire a soil scientist, which I did and he is George Logan. He met with us at the site on January 7th and prepared a report that I handed in. I’m sure you have all seen the attached report.

Chairman Zelek: Is Mr. Logan here today?

Mr. DiCioccio: Mr. Logan is not here.

Chairman Zelek: Ok. Commissioners, have you had a chance to review the report?

Commissioners: Yes.

Chairman Zelek: Any comments for the applicant or for... there may be some comments that have to go back to Mr. Logan. Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: One of my questions was addressing page 2, item 2 is a wood chip berm. I was going to ask Mr. Logan what is the life span of a wood chip berm.

Mr. DiCioccio: The life span of a wood chip berm?

Commissioner Clark: It is made of wood chips, I would assume that it would disintegrate over time and so...

Mr. DiCioccio: Correct, once the seed is established there will be no need for silt, it is to strengthen the silt fence.
E. Hinckley: I believe the intention is, once the grasses have germinated would be to remove the wood chips along with the silt fence.

Mr. DiCioccio: We can also just leave it to decay and decompose.

E. Hinckley: Right. He is using it basically as an additional filter. Anything that goes, any water that goes through the silt fence will go through it and then the wood chips in to the regulated area.

Commissioner Clark: Ok, I’m just having a hard time picturing it, because mostly I think of wood chips as a mulch, or as something to keep something from growing.

E. Hinckley: Right, this is just an additional filter.

Commissioner Clark: Ok, so we have the wood chips; a map would be helpful.

E. Hinckley: So you have the silt fence and the wood chips behind it. So anything going through the silt fence and then the wood chips and then disseminate the water.

Commissioner Clark: Where is the planting?

E. Hinckley: If the silt fence is here and the wood chips are there, the plantings are going to be on one side of the fence, or he could put the wood chips are in front of the silt fence, I don’t remember exactly which side of the fence it put them on.

Mr. DiCioccio: Yes, they are in front of the silt fence.

E. Hinckley: Ok.

Commissioner Clark: In front, meaning closer to the water?

E. Hinckley: No.

Mr. DiCioccio: No, closer to the upland review area. Further away from the regulated wetlands.

E. Hinckley: So anything running off the site, I’m sorry, will go through the wood chips first, then through the silt fence, then on to the regulated area.

Chairman Zelek: So if you don’t mind Erik. I know you asked the applicant at the last meeting to stake the area and you were going to go out and to a site inspection…

E. Hinckley: Correct.

Chairman Zelek: Can you give us an update on your observations. Maybe that will help us understand what the resolution is here.

E. Hinckley: I have some pictures here. The silt fence, as you see it, is running along the URA line. After this discussion, the wood chips that are on the right side, which is the regulated area, will be moved and put on the left side in front of the silt fence. So any water going that way, towards the brook, will filter through the chips, then the silt fence, in to the regulated area. I don’t know, I didn’t write the report, that is what I get.

Commissioner Clark: Ok. Was that pile of wood chips created from the everything that was cut down on the site?

Mr. DiCioccio: Yes.

Commissioner Clark: The Japanese knotweed that was identified. If you chop up a whole bunch of Japanese knotweed you are going to be seeding that entire area with Japanese knotweed.

E. Hinckley: Yes.

Commissioner Paskewich: Question. I have a comment.

Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Paskewich.
Commissioner Paskewich: Typically in the field that I have inspected regarding sedimentation and silt fences across the board. What I have typically seen on the berm is the use straw bale; which is more compacted and does not have any invasives or things of that nature. Commissioner Clark makes a good point. I can understand that it is efficient to use what they have on site, but I’m taking in to consideration the comment, that you are knowledgeable of, and I didn’t take in to consideration. It has been identified in here that there is this invasive. I don’t have any further comment than that other than the fact that I have seen bales of hay or straw used that are more cleaner than…possibly something like this.

Commissioner Clark: I’m going to ask the applicant. Are you familiar with Japanese knotweed?

Mr. DiCioccio: I know that it is an invasive.

Commissioner Clark: Right.

Mr. DiCioccio: I know more about it now than I did before.

Commissioner Clark: Anyway, let me explain my concern. I have had Japanese knotweed in my own gardens, and I have been to a lot of invasive plant workshops and training sessions on how to get rid of it. If you have a piece this big and throw it on bare ground, it will take root and you will just have nothing but Japanese knotweed. That one specifically, whereas even things like the Asiatic bittersweet, if your pile of wood chips is made up of the stuff that came off the site, this looks like a win-win overall because you are trying to get rid of a lot of invasive plants and you are trying to repair the thing. But if you are using wood chips as the filter, in my opinion, it should be virgin wood chips and not what was already on the site.

Mr. DiCioccio: Ok. I was going from the professionals notes; this is his report and that is what he thought. I am not opposed moving the chips off site, if that is going to satisfy you and make my inadvertent accident right in the commissions eyes. I have no problem with that.

Commissioner Clark: I would be happy to write this in the form of a question for Mr. Logan. The idea of would chips sounds great, but not those wood chips.

Chairman Zelek: Let’s have the applicant take it to Mr. Logan, have Mr. Logan respond, whether to validate your concern or not, or is there something else in the plan that addresses those invasives if they start to grow again.

Mr. DiCioccio: Well the seed, the conservation mix, is not supposed to let them grow and the second conservation mix is a mowable one to continue to knock them down, is my understanding.

Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: My other question is who, again thinking of the Japanese knotweed popping up all over, even without the, let’s say we didn’t use that, it is still a risk for it to be happening, who does the work as far as, quote “removal of invasive sprouts, using mechanical means”, meaning picking them out and cut-n-paint treatment. Who performs that? Are they training you how to do that or will there be an outside group that is trained in invasive control?

Mr. DiCioccio: We can hire an outside group with a license, it is not a problem. Or Mr. Logan can assist.

E. Hinckley: We can condition that it be overseen by an outside professional or Mr. Logan.

Commissioner Clark: It just seems… it is great, the whole plan is great, I just think it… I would like to know who is doing it. Thank you again for addressing my concern about the tainted wood chips.

Commissioner Sadil: Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Sadil.
Commissioner Sadil: Relevant to the wood chips. Is that intended to be a permanent fixture on the site or is that something that is going to decay over time.

Mr. DiCioccio: Decay over time.

Commissioner Sadil: Is that something that id meant to act in concert with the proposed rain garden that is already on the plan.

Mr. DiCioccio: No, that was meant to use a resource that was on site that we thought was a good idea.

Commissioner Sadil: Next question and I think I asked you this at the last meeting, is about the rain garden and its capacity. Is it a 5-year storm, 10-year storm, what is the capacity of that feature?

Mr. DiCioccio: I do not know that, but that is outside of the upland review area. I wasn’t prepared to discuss that; that was already approved by I believe by the planning and zoning.

E. Hinckley: If I could interject just a minute. They did submit revised plans late last week that did include drainage calculations and everything in those will be reviewed, in house, by the other engineer within the next week or so, so probably those questions will be answered.

Commissioner Sadil: Ok.

Chairman Zelek: Can we include those answers in this application because this has come up as a concern since it was discovered that this drainage will go into a storm sewer which is dumping into to the wetlands. I just want to make a comment. This was, I think, a complete oversight by the town planner to have not flagged this for a wetlands permit. There is a direct impact here on the plan where this water it going in to the wetlands. Erik, I would really like you to send an official document to the town planner, notifying him that any impact to the wetlands on a site plan should be referred to the inland wetlands commission regardless if the activities are within the upland review area. Our regulations clearly state any activity that would have an impact to the wetlands needs to be reviewed by the inland wetlands commission.

E. Hinckley: Ok.

Chairman Zelek: So, if you could please inform him and send a copy of that communication to the commission. I want to ensure that this type of oversight by the town planner doesn’t occur again in the future.

E. Hinckley: Got it.

Commissioner Sadil: Just one thing Mr. Chairman in regards to that.

Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Sadil.

Commissioner Sadil: Just so the applicant understands. Previously, it is the hydrology, that is one of the questions I had for Mr. Logan. Previously we had un-impervious and it was percolating in to the ground, now we have a holding and that is going to be made to go in to the wetland at some point. If there is an overrun, if we have a very heavy storm, what is the impact, is there something new, material or water, going in to the brook. So that is my point, is the hydrology of the wetland going to be impacted by having more impervious water being channeled away towards the brook. That is the question I want to ask here.

Chairman Zelek: Typically, for the applicants benefit, when we see an application like this where we know there is going to be a direct impact of water flowing in to the wetlands, they usually come with an expert, a hydrologist or an engineer, who will explain the plans to the commission in detail to ensure that there is no impact to the wetlands. I think in this case we are going to have to rely on the engineering staff to review the plan and give us a recommendation if there anything they see on this.

E. Hinckley: Ok.
Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: I apologize for not noticing this earlier, but item five on this says “to prepare for seeding the existing stump/brush pile and woodchip piles should be removed from the upland review area.” So I think this implies that Mr. Logan…

E. Hinckley: To use fresh chips.

Commissioner Clark: did not intend to use it, but I would like to see that.

E. Hinckley: We can clarify that.

Commissioner Clark: And I have one more thing.

Chairman Zelek: So you say you are going to clarify it. You mean clarify it as a condition or are you going to ask Mr. Logan.

E. Hinckley: Well, I am writing down these questions for Mr. Logan and I will send them to Brian.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, very good. Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: I think that this is a great opportunity, we have talked about invasive plants for years, I think this would be a pretty neat thing to watch the control, and I don’t mean as an oversight to you, but as an educational thing for us to see if a plan like this turns out to be successful. Just because it is hopefully cutting edge invasive plant control which we have been so much desiring for other areas in town and think we might learn something from what he has proposed.

Chairman Zelek: I do have one question. The other silt fence in the distance. What is that?

E. Hinckley: That is basically on the top of the slope before it heads down in to the brook. That was installed prior, so they were aware that they were upgrading to the brook and they were trying to protect that.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, so the boundaries on the plan are between those two silt fences.

E. Hinckley: Correct, or from the silt fence to where his property ends, I don’t think that other silt fence is on the property line, it might go a little bit down.

Chairman Zelek: Ok. In your opinion, you’ve read the report.

E. Hinckley: Yes.

Chairman Zelek: In your opinion does it comply with our regulations.

E. Hinckley: I don’t see anywhere in here where Mr. Logan looked at our new buffer section 6.3. I don’t, that is the only thing I am not aware if he did or did not do.

Chairman Zelek: Ok. On behalf of the commission then, could you please ask him to review that section of our regulations to see if he needs to make any adjustments to his report that may be necessary to comply.

E. Hinckley: Ok.

Mr. DiCioccio: Excuse me, may I. I have a rebuttal, or an answer to 6.3 here with me. I have eleven copies if you would please let me distribute them.

E. Hinckley: Sure, no problem.

Chairman Zelek: Let’s let the applicant…

E. Hinckley: I did discuss this with the applicant the other day, I think it was actually today and he said he would talk to Mr. Logan to see if he got an answer, so apparently he got some sort of response.

Chairman Zelek: So this is from Mr. Logan?
Mr. DiCioccio: Yes, as of 4:30 this evening.

Chairman Zelek: Ok. Thank you. Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: I'd like to clarify something. Either I am confused or everyone else is confused, but is probably just me. Erik mentioned in looking at that image, the work is going to be to the right of that silt fence. I am reading it the other way around, he keeps saying upgrading, everything is going to be upgradient isn't that correct.

Mr. DiCioccio: That is correct, but I believe it everything to the right when Mr. Logan looked at that. When Mr. Logan visited my property, the silt fence in the middle of the picture was not installed yet. The line was just marked when Mr. Logan looked at it. I asked Erik if I could put that silt fence up, he said yes.

Commissioner Bachand: So he wants the chips on that far silt fence?

Mr. DiCioccio: Yes, he wants the chips on the far silt fence.

Commissioner Bachand: Also, and this goes back to what Erik had brought up at the last meeting, he was going to field confirm those lines, the starting point is just the mention of the silt fence, I would like to see a map where it is actually designed. I believe what Mr. Logan is referring to in this handout, correct me if I am wrong, that is everything to the right of this existing silt fence, that is the upland buffer that you don’t need to do any work in. You don’t have to do anything in the middle.

Mr. DiCioccio: Everything to the right of that silt fence in the middle, correct, is the area that...

Commissioner Bachand: Is the area that doesn’t need any additional work.

Mr. DiCioccio: Is the area that we need to work on.

Commissioner Bachand: Ok.

Mr. DiCioccio: The silt fence all the way to the right is the area where we don’t...there is a natural buffer that we did not disturb, so it is between the two.

Chairman Zelek: So, if I understand the layering then, it is the area that is not disturbed where the silt fence is, the area near the embankment...

Mr. DiCioccio: Yes.

Chairman Zelek: then there would be the wood chips...

Mr. DiCioccio: Yes.

Chairman Zelek: then there would be some type of dog wood mix, I think is what he called it...

Mr. DiCioccio: Yes.

Chairman Zelek: And then there is some type seed mix, I think he called it wildlife flower mix which would be mowed.

Mr. DiCioccio: Yes.

Chairman Zelek: So it is progressively thins out towards your development there.

Mr. DiCioccio: Toward the silt fence, yes.

Chairman Zelek: I got you. Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: I am still confused here. Everything to the left of this silt fence is still in the upland review area.

E. Hinckley: No, that is incorrect John. That is the limit of the silt fence.

Mr. DiCioccio: This is the silt fence that was installed...
Commissioner Bachand: I thought on his original plan that was the area that he drew on his plan.
Chairman Zelek: Erik went out and marked it.
E. Hinckley: I don’t know, he hired a surveyor to stake it out and I had him put up the silt fence.
Chairman Zelek: Verified it.
Commissioner Bachand: Ok. So this is the outer limit of the upland review area, this silt fence here.
E. Hinckley: Correct. To the left of the silt fence it unregulated area. To the right, this is where he is going to do all the planting and restoration and everything else. His stone pile is partially in and partially out.
Commissioner Bachand: Ok. So approximately how many feet between the silt fences? I know that are not parallel. We are only talking about 40’ of improvements on this, Mr. Logan’s plan here.
Mr. DiCioccio: Yeah, I would have to say…
Commissioner Bachand: That’s it.
E. Hinckley: And that will be demonstrated on the final plan, on the final mylars we get.
Whatever you guys approve, the plantings, the seed mixes will all be specked out on the plans and it will show the areas to be planted with seed mix 1 and seed mix 2.
Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Clark.
Commissioner Clark: The questions for Mr. Logan, are we keeping track of those?
E. Hinckley: I have a few so far.
Commissioner Clark: Ok. Than my next one for that is we talk about the rate of growth of the shrub mix. So if you could make something a little bit more clear here, we are talking about the right hand side of the silt fence, is the area they are going to be planting the dogwood seed mix.
E. Hinckley: I assume they will start planting that seed mix here, closer to the brook and up in this area with be the other, mowable, wildflower mix.
Commissioner Clark: My other question for Mr. Logan would be, let’s say we seed this in early June, how much growth of dogwood would we have towards the end of the season. Would we have 2-inch protections? Will it be 8 inches tall by then? And then getting to who would know if it is an invasive sprout, who would know unless you were highly trained.
Chairman Zelek: And I have a question for…maybe it is in here and I didn’t see it. What time of year does it get mowed, is it at the beginning of the growing season, at the end of the growing season?
E. Hinckley: He has in here “after the fist year of growth, this area may be mowed once a year, in either spring, May or late fall, November at a mow height of no less than 5-6 inches.
Commissioner Bachand: No more.
E. Hinckley: And that is that first wildlife seed mix.
Commissioner Sadil: Is that going to be…excuse me, is that going to be a condition in the permit? To do that yearly?
Chairman Zelek: It is already on the plan, right?
E. Hinckley: It will be on the plan and yes we can refer to this report in the conditions. I can do that.
Commissioner Sadil: Ok, yes.
Chairman Zelek: Does it matter if it is in the spring time frame or fall time frame?
E. Hinckley: He is just recommending it be done in the spring or fall. Just don’t do it in July.

Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: I think I speak for all of us when I say I trust Mr. Logan. But I am still trying to get a visual picture of when the project is done. We are talking about a 20 foot strip of this first seed mix, which after the first couple of years there will no maintenance or mowing in there I guess. The next 20 feet is mowed once a year. What about the balance? You know, right up to the wherever the limits of where the upland review area is? Is that going to be lawn?

Mr. DiCioccio: The balance in the URA is going to be second seed mix. The balance of the URA beyond the twenty feet wide zone will be the second seed mix. The entire thing.

Commissioner Bachand: In the picture it looks more than forty feet, especially when you come close...

E. Hinckley: I think what he is saying John, is to the right, that 20 feet from that silt fence roughly, that is going be seeded with the dogwood mix, and the balance of the URA, everything else up to the silt fence is going to be seeded with the wildflower seed mix.

Commissioner Bachand: You are right, it does say the balance. I get it, I get it. So there will be no finished lawn in there.

Mr. DiCioccio: Correct.

Chairman Zelek: So are there any other plantings beyond the upland review area? You going to plant that with something else or the same seed mix?

Mr. DiCioccio: That will be lawn and then there is plantings on the site plan.

Commissioner Bachand: That’s your parking lot or driveway, isn’t it?

Mr. DiCioccio: Pretty close. And there is a low impact drain there as well.

Chairman Zelek: All right. Any other questions from the commissioners? Commissioner Paskewich.

Commissioner Paskewich: On page 3. I need a definition. The paragraph that starts at the top of the page, it’s not the start of it, it is a continuation from page 2. “growing season. Seed can be applied before snowfall and be secured with a tackifier…” I’m not sure what a tackifier is.

Speaker: or with straw.

E. Hinckley: It is basically to help the seed adhere, you know like a hydrosed seed kind of thing, so it is going to stick.

Commissioner Bachand: It is like a mat, isn’t it, a woven mat?

Mr. DiCioccio: I would define it as a glue, like a glue.

E. Hinckley: Yeah.

Commissioner Paskewich: Is it a mat?

E. Hinckley: No, it is not a mat.

Mr. DiCioccio: It is not a mat. It can be an additive to the hydrosed seed that acts like a glue when it dries.

Commissioner Bachand: So it doesn’t blow away.

Mr. DiCioccio: So it doesn’t blow away...

E. Hinckley: It basically adheres it in place.

Mr. DiCioccio: until it is established.
Commissioner Paskewich: Then you state, you don’t state, the report states “or with straw.” It seems like the tackifier is more resilient to wind than straw would be in my opinion.

Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: Adding to Alan’s question. So when they talk about the seed being applied, are they just talking about the rye grass which is where the paragraph begins or are they also talking about the... both of the seed mixes in paragraphs 2 and 3. I think that is unclear in this report. It says when the rye grass seed is being applied, when are these other seed mixes being applied?

Commissioner Paskewich: I think it is based on conditions?

Commissioner Clark: But it doesn’t say it. I would like to see it referenced in the future.

E. Hinckley: Ok, I got that question.

Chairman Zelek: Any other questions?

Commissioner Sadil: I’ve got one.

Chairman Zelek: Let Commissioner Clark finish up first.

Commissioner Clark: It’s ok, we have the same question. I’ll let Andreas ask the question.

Commissioner Sadil: In the final paragraph of the report it says “we should note that the planting of additional trees is not necessary to protect/preserve the functional values of the regulated resource, and would not allow for effective control of invasives within the cleared portion of the upland review area.” It’s probably true as far as the invasives is concerned, but I would say why, besides that, he feels that way, obviously some trees were inadvertently cut down in this action. Would that interfere with the plan? What is his specific reason, other than for the invasives, not to restore what was there before.

Mr. DiCioccio: I believe it is because the invasives were taking over the trees we did not cut down and if we do install trees it is going to come that way.

Commissioner Sadil: But I thought the seed mix was going to stop that. I thought the seed mix that he was proposing was going to prevent the invasives from taking over.

Mr. DiCioccio: Correct. I’m sorry, I don’t understand the question that you asked.

Commissioner Sadil: Just the... looking to restore what was there before. There were some trees that were inadvertently taken down.

Mr. DiCioccio: I believe he mentioned five.

Commissioner Sadil: Right. He doesn’t feel you want to replace that. Go back to replace what was there before.

Mr. DiCioccio: I believe he states that there is no need to because it doesn’t effect, it doesn’t have anything to do with the wild life; it doesn’t contribute and is not necessary.

Commissioner Sadil: That is true, but I am thinking from a conservation standpoint.

Chairman Zelek: He is saying it is not necessary, but perhaps it could be optional. Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: That is what I was getting at when I said that we trust Mr. Logan pretty thoroughly. That would have been my one question to him, you know, why isn’t there any trees put back. I don’t think it is that big of a deal, I would like to see some trees in there, just because there always were. I don’t agree that it wouldn’t help the wildlife, I think he said it wouldn’t help the health of the wetland.

Commissioner Sadil: Which is true, I would say, but...

Commissioner Bachand: If I might add, the question is going to come up. All these questions that we had and things to go back to Mr. Logan. Construction season is coming to an end, I think we have
been very lucky, I’m not speaking for you, but is there an enough here that it can be voted on and then have those questions followed up after. I’m just putting that out there because it is going to come up, soon. I’m ok with it, so.

Chairman Zelek: I’m not sure in understand what you are asking.

Commissioner Bachand: We are asking a lot of questions to go back to Mr. Logan. Do we have to wait for those answers to come back before we can vote on it.

Chairman Zelek: We are waiting for answers from Mr. Logan, and we are also waiting for the engineers updated analysis of the impact of the runoff. There some calculations they have to review and then get back to us. Commissioner Casasanta.

Commissioner Casasanta: Getting back to the previous thing we were discussing regarding the tree plantings. The way I read Mr. Logan’s report is the seed mix is being used to prohibit invasive growth in the upland review area. The trees will actually encourage, they do nothing to inhibit the growth, in fact they actually encourage and probably will aid in the growth of the invasives. Just like the Japanese knotweed that was, I believe it was Japanese knotweed that was growing on the trees. It is giving them a home or a host.

Commissioner Clark: Japanese knotweed doesn’t grow on trees, just so you know. Other things do, like bittersweet.

Commissioner Casasanta: Like I said, I wasn’t sure what it was. It is the bittersweet then, I stand corrected. He probably...

Chairman Zelek: Again, he doesn’t give a reason why there are no trees, I wouldn’t say the would inhibit that invasives from growing, he just doesn’t see them as necessary.

Commissioner Casasanta: Yeah, I see him recommending the mixes for the specific reason that it is going to inhibit invasive growth, so if you go away from the plan of trying to inhibit the invasive growth you are going to aiding invasive growth because he has a specific plan here to address that. That is what I am saying.

Chairman Zelek: We will ask him.

E. Hinckley: That goes hand in hand with the invasive removal as well.

Commissioner Clark: Especially the mowing part.

E. Hinckley: Yes.

Commissioner Clark: I think with the mowing, no trees helps.

Commissioner Casasanta: What I am saying is that it is part of a larger plan by trying to inhibit invasives from reoccurring in the upland review area.

Chairman Zelek: Commissioner Paskewich.

Commissioner Paskewich: Question for Commissioner Sadil about the trees and I am found of the trees and the protection of the land and water and everything else. So, where in the plan are we proposing to have trees replaced. That is what I am not clear on.

Commissioner Clark: Nowhere.

Chairman Zelek: He doesn’t have anything in the plan that proposed reforestation.

Commissioner Sadil: And I was just saying the location where they were previously, as part of the conservation commission putting our hat on, it would be nice to have those replaced. I am just suggesting that, I am very surprised that he would say that. That is why I am asking for clarification and justification.
Chairman Zelek: I kind of said, perhaps optional. If the applicant would be open to planting trees to replace those that were removed we would appreciate that.

Commissioner Paskewich: I agree with you.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, any other comments from commissioners? All right, seeing none then we will have to table this until the next meeting. Can we keep this open Erik?

E. Hinckley: Yes, at the next meeting it would be day 64 of 65, so if you act on it next month, we won’t have to ask the applicant for an extension. If you decide to table it, then you would have to ask the applicant for an extension.

Chairman Zelek: So is there anything else you want to share with the commission, anything else you have?

E. Hinckley: No, I don’t believe so on that.

Chairman Zelek: Anything else from the applicant? Anything else you care to share?

Mr. DiCioccio: At this time I am all set.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, all right. Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark: Is there anyway we can get the answers back from Mr. Logan before our next meeting?

E. Hinckley: Yeah. I will get these worked up today or tomorrow and will send them out to Brian and Mr. Logan and when I get them back I will forward it to the commission.

Commissioner Clark: That is great, I think we are all so…we all have questions for him and I feel like if we get answers back, if we have more questions we can do so and the applicant won’t feel he is that much under the gun if it is an easy response.

E. Hinckley: What I would recommend is that if you guys have any other questions either tonight or tomorrow why don’t you email them to me. We don’t want everybody peppering the applicant with questions. So, just try to go through Jeff or myself and we can get them all on one list and see where we go moving forward.

Chairman Zelek: Yeah, that is fair. I would like to thank Mr. DiCioccio for working with the commission on this restoration plan.

Mr. DiCioccio: Thank you. Would it be possible to have a special meeting to get this thing moving along if I can get you those answers relatively quick. I don’t see that they are too hard. I know I don’t have the answer.

E. Hinckley: We do have a special meeting date available on the 5th of February.

Chairman Zelek: We will wait to see if we get the answers in. If we do, then we can entertain the idea of a special meeting.

E. Hinckley: If everyone is available and we have a quorum we can vote.

Chairman Zelek: Do you foresee any other applications coming in?

E. Hinckley: I am not aware of any, I mean the special meeting would be just for this one. I wouldn’t take any new applications, it would just go to the regular meeting.

Chairman Zelek: I would like to do the special meeting in lieu of the regular meeting.

E. Hinckley: I understand.

Chairman Zelek: I don’t want to have to meet twice.
E. Hinckley: I am not aware of any applications coming in for February.

Chairman Zelek: All right. Is the commission open to having a special meeting in lieu of a regular meeting of there is nothing on the agenda? Commissioner Bachand.

Commissioner Bachand: I just want to add one more thing. I just wondered if there...because of the construction season ending, is there any work this commission would be comfortable with him performing in that area or is it still...

Chairman Zelek: The commission doesn’t work that way. We either approve or deny an application and the work begins after that. All right, very good, we are going to table this for now.

E. Hinckley: I’ll be in touch Brian.

Mr. DiCioccio: Thank you.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, moving on to the next item which is Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items. Any member of the public wishing to speak, please come forward.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (each speaker limited to 2 minutes)

Chairman Zelek: Seeing none, we move on to Communications and Reports, Louis Street Conservation Easement.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. Louis Street Conservation Easement

Chairman Zelek: Erik, do you have updates for us.

E. Hinckley: As requested, I sent a letter that I drafted and you guys made a couple of changes to.

No response.

Chairman Zelek: Ok.

E. Hinckley: I sent it to the business, and I sent it to the registered agent of the corporation.

Chairman Zelek: Moving on to vernal pools.

Commissioner Paskewich: Actually I have some information to provide regarding the bolting of the sign.

Chairman Zelek: Very good, you need to talk about that. You passed some information on to Erik I believe.

Commissioner Paskewich: Some of it. I made a phone call to the national arborists association and I got the director on the phone and asked for some guidance other than hiring an arborist, which is still something to look at. He gave me the name and author of a book they utilize for referencing for all arborists. It is called *The Compartmentalization of Decaying Trees* by Alex Shigo. I couldn’t find the book anywhere, so I call Dr. Lee, the plant pathologist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and he was kind enough find the book, which I sent on for reference today for Erik to bulk mail later today. It is a couple of hundred pages, but there is one chapter relating the trees resilience to decay from a lot a of different reasons. You can read that chapter when you receive it. I also did call UConn Dept. of Master Gardener program, and the person spoke to me on it briefly, a couple of minutes and she said in her experience, she is not an arborist, but in time if the tree if healthy it performs scabbing around impediments that are in trees. But again, I’d rather have it looked at further and have everyone read the documents I am sending in. I’ll leave it at that.

Chairman Zelek: Thank you. Commissioner Bachand.
Commissioner Bachand: Something along those lines. I tap a couple of maple trees and we drill 
7/16 or a half inch hole in the tree, maybe a couple of inches deep and within a year or two they plug 
themselves up. I'm just throwing that out there.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, moving on Vernal Pools.

B. Vernal Pools

Commissioner Paskewich: It is a work in progress and as I said before I am going to be pulling a 
chapter that they use in Maine. I also thought of coinciding with specific information from the CT DEEP 
and seeing what I can find and generate. It is still a work in progress.

Chairman Zelek: Very good. Invasive plants.

C. Invasive Plants

Commissioner Clark: I have nothing new to report.

Chairman Zelek: Ok, can I get a motion to adjourn?

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Manke, seconded by Commissioner Bachand. The motion to 
adjourn passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Recording Secretary - Conservation Commission