

## MEMORANDUM

To: Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

From: Suzanne Simone, Environmental Planner

Date: March 17, 2022

**Re: Discussion regarding current condition of conservation easement area and request to cut trees: 431 East Carriage Drive and 7, 11, 17, 23, 27 and 33 Montauk Way**

Attachments: Aerial Photos from Town GIS  
Recorded Conservation Easement, April 7, 2006  
Tree Cutting Request, email dated February 7, 2022  
IWWA Permit Approval August 11, 2005

On February 7, 2022 an email from Laura Cahill, representing East Carriage Condo Association, was received. The Association requests to cut numerous trees within the conservation easement area, relative to page 2 of the conservation easement.

On February 10, 2022 Chairman Kaputa and I visited the site, led by Mr. Paul Reddington (ECCA President) and Laura Cahill, proposal coordinator and resident of the East Carriage Condominiums.

The trees proposed to be cut were identified with pink flagging and were limited to the areas behind 431 East Carriage Drive and 7, 11, 17, 23, 27 and 33 Montauk Way. In addition to the flagged trees, we observed that lawn, mulch, stone and clearing are located within the conservation easement. Most notable is the stone wall and stone area. The progression of the expansion into the conservation easement is visible between the 2009 and 2016 aerial photographs.

The approved development plans recorded in the town clerk's office locate stormwater basins behind the homes on Montauk Way. The large basin at the Montauk Way cul-de sac is installed in conformance with the approved plans. The rain garden approved to be installed behind 17 Montauk Way is not present. Staff is researching the approved plans to determine if the design had changed to not require the rain garden.

The conservation easement boundary lacks markers. The length of the proposed tree cutting area from 431 East Carriage Drive and 7, 11, 17, 23, 27 and 33 Montauk Way, has a few markers installed on trees. The IWWA permit issued in 2005 specifies (Item #2) that conservation easement markers are to be installed at 100 foot intervals. The approximate length of the proposed tree cutting area is in excess of 500 feet.

The request to cut trees, dated March 24, 2022, specifies the number and size of trees to be removed behind the homes on East Carriage Drive and Montauk Way. The tree cutting request

lacks details regarding tree stump management, whether to leave the stumps in place or excavate to remove. The proposed planting plan identifies the species to be planted as replacement, stating that only native plants will be used. Of note, address 27 Montauk Way identifies honeysuckle shrubs to be planted. The species information should be provided to ensure it is not a non-native invasive honeysuckle shrub. Native honeysuckle is a vine and the proposal specifies honeysuckle shrub which is a non-native invasive species recognized and prohibited by the State of Connecticut.

Conservation Easement Area and rain garden behind homes on Montauk Way. The wetland boundary, labeled with wetland flag numbers, at the closest point to the back of 11 and 17 Montauk Way.



Stone and limited shrubs in the area identified on the 2005 approved plans to contain a rain garden.



Stone wall and crushed stone garden in conservation easement. Pink flagging on trees requested to be cut.

