AGENDA ITEM II JUNE 15, 2023 MEETING

STAFF REPORT

To: Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

Date: June 8, 2023

Re: Conservation Easement Area Restoration: 214 and 216 Thompson Street

Review Documents:

Non-native invasive plant removal plan Portion of April 27, 2023 meeting minutes Restoration proposal and map

In 2022 several trees within the conservation easement on the north side of the shared driveway to 210, 214 and 216 Thompson Street were cut without the required permission of the Conservation Commission.

On two occasions the Conservation Commission Chairman and I met with Kevin Jackowitz, owner of 210 Thompson Street (property highlighted in blue on the map), to discuss restoration of the affected portion of the conservation easement, with concern being the removal of tree canopy contributing to the proliferation of bittersweet vine.

Mr. Jackowitz was advised to develop an invasive plant management and replanting plan in the area of the tree cutting.

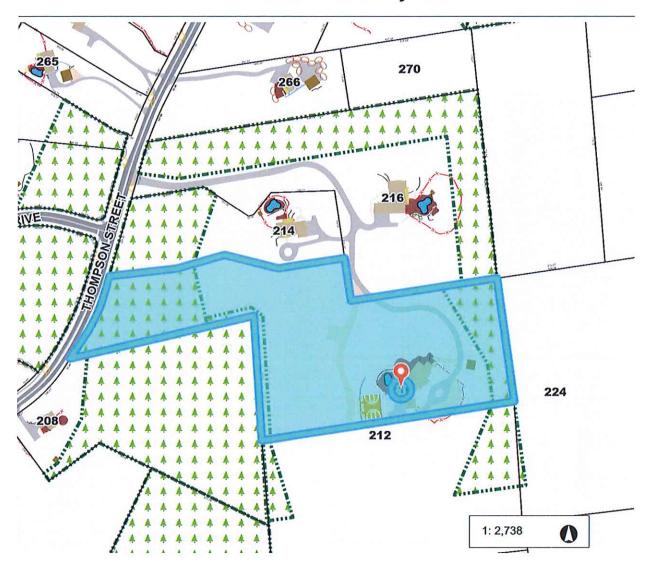
At the April 27, 2023 meeting Christian Allyn of Invasive Plant Solutions presented his scope of work to manage the non-native invasive plant growth in the area of the tree cutting and in the conservation easement to the south of the shared driveway.

Mr. Jackowitz submitted a planting plan he will present at the June 15, 2023 meeting.

A Show Cause Hearing was not held. The Commission is not required to make a motion to determine if a violation exists. A motion approving the limited use of pesticides and planting plan is attached.

The Commission had requested the town attorney's opinion on the Commission's ability to require the posting of a bond to ensure the work is completed and the replanting plants survive. The town attorney confirms that the conservation easement agreement does not give the Commission the authority to require the posting of a bond. If a bond is offered voluntarily, the Commission could accept it.

Town of Glastonbury GIS



DRAFT MOTION

MOVED, that the Conservation Commission grants permission, related to the conservation easement agreement recorded in Volume 2339 and Page 335 of the Glastonbury land records, for the use of herbicides for non-native invasive plant management to be conducted over a period of two years from 2023 and 2024 at 214 and 216 Thompson Street, as referenced in the map provided by Christian Allyn, Invasive Plant Solutions, presented at the April 27, 2023 meeting, and, the replanting of a portion of a conservation easement at 216 Thompson Street with white pine trees as referenced in the map provided by Kevin Jackowitz, owner of 210 Thompson Street, presented at the June 15, 2023 meeting.

Suzanne Simone

From:

Kevin Jackowitz <kjackowitz@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, June 2, 2023 2:00 PM

To:

Suzanne Simone

Subject:

210 Thompson Street - Re-Planting Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kevin Jackowitz 210 Thompson Street South Glastonbury, CT 06073

Hello Conservation Commission members,

Thank you for taking the time to review our submission for re-planting. As you recall, you had heard from Christian Allyn a few meetings back on behalf of our project on the non-native invasive plant treatment. In order to approve this activity in the conservation easement, the commission requested details on the quantity, location and species of the replacement trees.

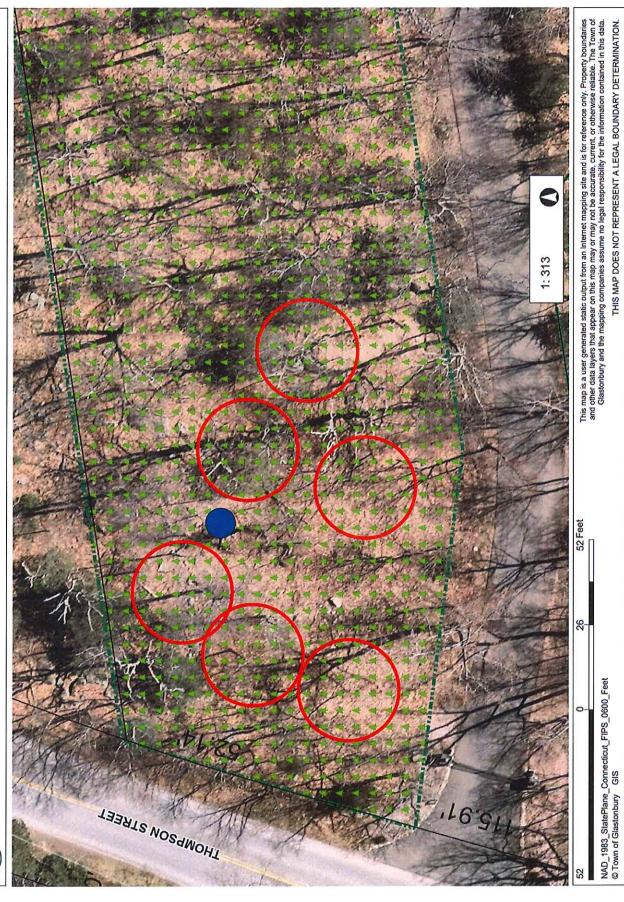
To address these questions I had reached out to a landscape design architect for some information to help form our planting recommendation. Per our previous discussions at the site, Frank suggested planting native White Pine and/or other native species. A mature white pine tree typically has a spread of about 25 to 40 feet in width depending on factors such as the tree's health, growing conditions, and available space for the tree to expand. Since this area does get good sunlight and has good growing conditions for white pine, we have marked the attached map with Red circles identifying space for 6 white pine tree plantings when using an average of 34ft tree span. We would be looking to plant white pines that are developed a bit, not saplings. We are hoping for 4ft to 6 ft trees in size. We are looking to keep at least a 15ft buffer from our shared property Gate & utility (battery backup) with the mature size of plantings. We also have a cleanout of some sort that we would like to leave accessible at the top side of the marked area on map > cleanout has been identified by a blue circle. We anticipate planting the white pine once the invasive vines have been completely remediated in this area - anticipating this to be Spring 2025. In the future, if these white pine trees grow well, we may also want to add a few native witch hazel plants (hamamelis virginiana) that are found throughout these woods. These plants would do better in a low light scenario so we would like to wait for the white pines to grow a bit before adding the smaller witch hazel shrubs.

Please let me know if the proposal is approved to proceed as planned. Sincerely appreciate the commission's time.

Best Regards,

Kevin Jackowitz
210 Thompson Street
South Glastonbury, CT 06073
kjackowitz@gmail.com

Town of Glastonbury GIS



PORTION OF GLASTONBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION/IWWA MINUTES OF THURSDAY APRIL 27, 2023 MEETING

2. Conservation Easement Restoration at 214 & 216 Thompson Street – Rural Residence Zone –proposed by owner of 210 Thompson Street, Thompson Street Estate LLC

Christian Allyn, owner of Invasive Plant Solutions stated that he is certified in pesticide applications in the state of Connecticut. Mr. Allyn noted that he met with Ms. Simone and Mr. Kaputa on February 6, 2023 to discuss the treatment of the bittersweet infestation. He explained that the bittersweet infestation is very minor, and added that it appears to be about 3 or 4 years old. Mr. Allyn noted that the vine is growing up trees and he proposes a cut and paint treatment, spot spraying, and applying an herbicide that is approved for wetland areas. He explained that they will treat the infestation area with a Garlon 3A solution, used in the smallest quantity possible. Mr. Allyn stated that the treatment will be extended through September and the area will be monitored.

Mr. Kaputa asked how long the site would be monitored. Mr. Allyn replied 3 years and added that it is up to the client if they want to go more than 3 years. Mr. Kaputa noted that the Commission does not allow herbicide use in conservation easements and stated that an exception is needed to control the non-native invasive plants and added that this exception provides an overall benefit to the easement. Mr. Kaputa asked about the planting plan. Mr. Allyn replied that he is not the contractor and added that the planting plan is up to the homeowner and contractor. Mr. Kaputa asked Ms. Simone for her thoughts on the lack of a planting plan. Ms. Simone explained that the Commission can keep the application as an open agenda item with the plans to be submitted by the homeowner later. Ms. Simone noted that she will reach out to the homeowner before the next meeting. Ms. McClain explained that the planting plan should be in conjunction with the invasive plant treatment. She noted that the Commission needs to be clear about the expectations and added that there should be no stoppage in work. Mr. Allyn stated that the work will start in July and run through September. He explained that the infestation is small and will be treated with the least amount of herbicide possible. Ms. Simone asked Mr. Allyn when the applicants can do a replanting. Mr. Allyn replied the spring of 2024. Mr. Temple explained that the application should not be openended and suggested adding a condition that notifies the environmental planner about treatment and planting in the conservation easement. Ms. McClain agreed with that suggestion. Mr. Parry remarked that the replanting cannot happen in the fall of 2023 because it may affect the survivability of new plantings. Mr. Allyn reiterated that the amount of herbicide that will be used is minimal; a gallon of spray mixture will be used. Mr. Parry suggested for the spring 2024 planting plan to be part of the approval. Ms. Simone stated that she will reach out to the homeowner and ask them to provide a species list with quantity as shown on the map in time for the May 11th meeting. Mr. Temple suggested including a condition regarding the monitoring and retreatment of the infested areas. Ms. Simone stated that she will add the conditions that were discussed. There was more discussion regarding attaching a bond to ensure the work is completed. Ms. Simone noted that this is something that she has to look into and added that this is usually connected to a development permit. She stated that she will get back to the Commission on the best mechanism to achieve the goal of completing the work as specified.

