

**GLASTONBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
(INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY)
MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**

The Glastonbury Conservation Commission (Inlands Wetlands & Watercourses Agency), along with Ms. Suzanne Simone, Environmental Planner, in attendance, held a meeting via ZOOM video conferencing.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members-Present

Frank Kaputa, Chairman

Kim McClain, Secretary

Anna Gault Galjan

Jim Thompson

Commission Members – Excused

Mark Temple, Vice-Chairman

Brian Davis

James Parry

Chairman Kaputa called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. and explained the public meeting process to the applicants and members of the public.

I. INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY

Request for a declaratory ruling from the Glastonbury Fire & Engineering Departments for a dry hydrant – 24 Fisher Hill Road – Michael Thurz, Fire Chief & Stephen M. Braun, P.E., Assistant Town Engineer

Fire Chief Michael Thurz provided a quick overview of the project and explained that the dry hydrant is needed to protect the area from fires. He added that dry hydrants are common in the eastern part of Glastonbury. He said that the property owner has granted an easement to the Town and added that the property owner is very much in favor of the dry hydrant. Mr. Thurz noted that he has photos to share and offered to explain in detail how the system will work.

Mr. Stephen Braun, Assistant Town Engineer, explained that vegetation will only be removed in the area that will be trenched for the pipe installation. He said that he has discussed the plans with the Highway Department and added that they will use sandbags, conduct the work during dry conditions, cover the pipe with rocks, and put in riprap in the disturbed area. Mr. Braun noted that this is a quick project summary and added that they are ready to answer questions.

Commissioner Gault Galjan asked for more information on the type of vegetation that is on site. Mr. Braun asked Ms. Simone if she could answer the question. Ms. Simone responded that the lawn goes right up to the edge of Roaring Brook. She noted that some small shrubs need to be removed and added that she does not recall the species. Mr. Kaputa noted that the road is not a Town road and asked Mr. Braun if he knows the details. Mr. Braun replied that the road was

initially a private road designated as maintenance only in the 1950s, but at some point, the Town took ownership. Mr. Kaputa asked if the Town considered installing the system off of a bridge. Mr. Thurz said that this dry hydrant will be the third one that will be put in. He noted that the lower the hose, the less strain there is and added that, from a fire fighting perspective, it is more efficient to have it lower. He pointed out the elevation differential and explained that the fire truck will be parked parallel to the brook to ensure that there are no problems getting the water. Mr. Kaputa asked how easy it would be for a truck to get in and make a 3-point turn. Mr. Thurz noted that the hose is 36 feet long and reiterated that the truck will be parked parallel to the brook to get maximum flow. He said that the nose of the truck has a front suction, which is designed to pull out the water efficiently. Mr. Kaputa thanked the Fire Chief for the explanation. Mr. Thurz remarked that it is great to educate people and explained that 1,500 gallons of water a minute goes pretty quickly. He added that, when the water runs out, they might have to go 2 to 3 miles to get more water.

Ms. Gault Galjan asked what happens during flooding. Mr. Thurz replied that they would use a portable strainer. He pointed out the red tarp and the silver box which is a strainer on a photo. He explained that they are proposing a tear drop-shaped strainer to get the water out of the brook. Mr. Thurz noted that, in times of flooding, a floating strainer would be used. The Fire Chief pointed out a cinder block holding down the floating strainer. Secretary McClain asked if the dry hydrant was far enough away from the brook and asked if erosion is a concern. Mr. Braun responded that the hydrant is about 10 feet away from the edge of the brook. He noted that the brook has riprap and added that the bank has been stable over the years. Mr. Braun remarked that he does not think there is a risk of erosion. Ms. McClain remarked that storms are getting worse. Mr. Braun noted that the system has a concrete collar securely holding it in place. Commissioner Thompson wanted to confirm that the brook will be restored to its previous condition with the exception of the pipe. Mr. Braun replied yes and explained that a portion of the brook is shallow and the pipe will be covered with rocks. He added that riprap will be put in the embankment.

Motion by: Secretary McClain

Seconded by: Commissioner Gault Galjan

MOVED, that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency declares the installation of a dry hydrant at 24 Fisher Hill Road meets the requirements of CT General Statute 22a-40.b and 22a-40.3 to be a non-regulated activity in conformance with CT General Statute 22a-40.b and 22a-40.3.

Result: Motion passes unanimously. (4-0-0)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Meeting of September 14, 2023 – TABLED

III. COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Karl Wagener of 588 Neipsic Road remarked that he did not intend to say anything and added that it was nice to listen to the meeting. Mr. Wagener briefly updated that a decision was not made at the Town Council meeting regarding Action on Proposed Amendments to Sections 2 and 7 of the Building-Zone Regulations to modify requirements for parking commercial and

recreational vehicles, boats, trailers, and mobile homes in residential zones. Mr. Wagener explained that the issue will be brought before a subcommittee first. He noted that he will bring up environmental concerns when the item is back on the Town Council agenda. The Commission thanked Mr. Wagener for the update.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Chairman's Report

There was a brief discussion on the lack of rattlesnake sightings in the area. Ms. McClain remarked that someone recently told her that a dog was attacked by a rattlesnake and added that rattlesnakes may move to different areas.

Mr. Kaputa asked Ms. Simone for more information on the October 16th meeting. Ms. Simone responded that the October 16th meeting is the regular Recreation Commission meeting and the Conservation Commission is invited. She stated that the upcoming meeting has been noticed and the focus of the meeting is to discuss the findings from the open space field research and discuss putting together a draft management plan. Mr. Kaputa and Ms. Gault Galjan asked if members of the Commission would be participating as private citizens or Commission members. Ms. Simone replied that they would be participating as Commission members and added that the meeting is open to the public. She reiterated that the meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the Academy Cafeteria. Ms. Simone noted that she asked IT about recording the meeting and was told it might be difficult. Mr. Kaputa discussed the scheduling of the October 12th meeting.

2. Environmental Planner's Report

Ms. Simone provided an update on the ongoing conservation easement project. She explained that they have been inundated with calls and complaints related to the storm events. Ms. Simone noted that, since Monday, she had received 14 more calls. She noted that these calls are in addition to the other calls from the last storm event. Ms. Gault Galjan asked about the nature of the calls. Ms. Simone noted that the calls are regarding sediment and water coming from neighboring properties. She explained that she has to research the situation to see if it is a conservation easement issue, wetlands issue, or another issue, and added that there is a lot of movement of material and erosion concerns all over town. Ms. Simone noted that calls about the wetlands are the priority.

With no other business to discuss, Chairman Kaputa adjourned the meeting at 7:04 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nadya Yuskaev

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Recording Secretary