

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
3rd Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, August 7, 2013
7:30p.m.

Conservation Commission Members Present: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Patrick Fairbairn, Maria Rose, Lou Taverna

Conservation Commission Member Absent: Leo Martin, Charles Bering

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward

Members of the Public Present: See Sign-In Form

Pallotta-McDermott chaired.

1) Public Hearing Continuation – NOI - 93 California Street – Single Family House renovation, Christopher & Rose Zevitas, owner/applicants.

Richard Kirby, LEC and Ginna Johnson, Esker Company, represented the applicant Christopher and Rose Zevitas. Kirby described how the force main to the catch basin in the street idea was eliminated and sump pump water will now be directed to the proposed rain garden. Mike Kosmo, project engineer of record, was concerned that both sump pump discharge and roof leader discharge would be too much for rain garden. Roof leaders will now disperse storm water by overland flow. The proposal to construct full foundation basement under the proposed 2 story addition was also eliminated in favor of adding another floor to avoid additional water problems.

Ginna Johnson, Esker Company, described the changes to the revised plans. She also detailed the type of pervious pavers to be used as M. Rose had requested additional information. She noted that Aqua Brick will be used. This is a material that according to industry literature captures 10 inches of runoff an hour, even after 30 years of being installed.

Chair McDermott thanked representatives for revising plans to save any damage from occurring to DCR owned Zelkova trees along California St.

M. Rose commented that she was pleased as well and asked to make sure that Certificate of Compliance will not be requested until at least one year after the plantings have been allowed to establish. Also she'd like to make sure surface overflow is monitored for erosion. Natural plantings would be best for consideration to control any potential erosion.

P. Fairbairn was pleased with plant selection. He advised to protect existing grapes by controlling weeds and invasives.

Public comment: Dan Driscoll, DCR, offered some history on the site stating that the site has always had problems with flooding. Also property line is pretty tight in this area and applicant should be very aware of those tight confines.

Vote: Taverna motioned that the CC accept the project as it was presented with revisions. Fairbairn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. An Order of Conditions will be prepared.

2) Department of Conservation and Recreation - Vegetation Management and Yearly Operation Plan discussion continuation – Matt Thurlow and Dan Driscoll, DCR; Mark Lacombe, Northern Tree

Matt Thurlow, DCR, discussed the maps that were presented to the CC showing the areas where Poison Ivy has become out of control. He stated that all the DCR wants to do is control the areas where it is creeping into pathways and can affect people passing by. He also stated that they would like to treat areas where the invasive Japanese Knotweed has grown to a point where lines of sight are blocked to avoid potential accidents.

Fairbairn stated his concern about the Poison Ivy removal and its distance from where people are. As far as the removal of knotweed, he encouraged the DCR to do what they can to remove it.

Hayward presented photos to the CC of the out of control Poison Ivy showing where the public has actually stated to create new paths to avoid the plant.

M. Rose questioned why it can't be cut back. Thurlow replied that the crews do not want to become infected because if they do, they will not get paid.

The CC agreed controlling the vegetation needs to be done and wished the DCR luck. They also requested to see them on a regular basis.

1) Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions (DEP 321-0144, WWO 11-01) 270 Pleasant Street – Request to include Dog Run Area within property boundaries – John J. Englert, Criterion Development Partners

Ben Zimmerman represented John Englert to discuss this request. The request is to amend the existing Order to allow for the inclusion of a fenced-in dog run contained within their property. The dog run will be within the 200-foot Riverfront Area but outside of the 50-foot No Build Zone.

The CC agreed that the Request was appropriate. A motion was made by M. Rose and seconded by Taverna to allow this process to continue at a Public Hearing to be held at the next scheduled CC meeting on Wednesday September 4, 2013.

3) Minutes of the July 2013 Meeting – Adopted.

Minor grammatical edits were made. M. Rose motioned to approve. Taverna seconded.

4) Old Business

Item	Update status
Whitney Hill Report	In preparation of the CC's charge of the annual maintenance report and public education of the land due in December a community meeting was held in May.
Recycling Center/Filippello Park	The new Recycling Center is now up and running. The area that formally acted as the Recycling Center at Filippello Park was recently cleaned up. Cost estimates are being developed between CDM and Wacker for Filippello Park. Input on uses to be forwarded to Recreation Dept.
Storm Water Advisory Commission	The Post Construction Storm Water Run-Off Ordinance is completed and was forwarded to TC. Ordinances to be managed by DPW.
GSA	CC to submit an acknowledgment response letter June 7, 2013. (See item 1 above).

5) New Business

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.