

Minutes
January 22, 2019
12 Treadwell Ave
Continued Show Cause Hearing

Attendance:

Anna Rycenga- Chair
Paul Davis- Vice Chair
Mark Perlman
Paul Lobdell
Tom Carey- Alternate
Pat Shea- Alternate

Staff:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director
Gillian Carroll, Conservation Compliance Officer
Colin Kelly, Conservation Analyst

Owner & Owner Representation:

Judy Auber, Owner
Robert Frangione P.E, Engineer for the owner
Eric Bernheim, Attorney for the owner

A. Rycenga opened the meeting by introducing Commission members and staff.

G. Carroll read in the January 18, 2019 Memorandum from Amrik Matharu, Engineer II for the Town of Westport's Engineering Department to the Conservation Commission.

Memorandum stated that the submitted material and analysis done by Frangione Engineering did not address the information regarding downstream impacts and did not take into consideration diversion of flow

A. Mozian questioned the fact that the planting plan they distributed only offered 12 perennials in 3" pots

T. Carey asked if they had considered larger plantings because three inch plants would be insufficient and suggested a minimum of a gallon bucket size as the preferred size.

R. Frangione said the plantings were to address the disturbed area only.

Ms. Mozian offered that the Commission will need to decide if that is sufficient. They also need to decide if the embankment should be planted. She explained that a vegetative buffer will provide slope

stabilization, absorb excess nitrogen from fertilization, and prevent grass clippings from getting into stream. Ms. Auber said she does not fertilize.

M. Perlman also stated that the plantings would help absorb flood waters on their property and lessen the flow downstream during times of higher flows rates.

P. Lobdell asked if pipes and waterway are regularly cleaned and maintained of leaf debris and tree branches.

A. Rycenga stated that the planting plan needs to be augmented, and plan in general requires further review by Engineering Dept.

C. Kelly would also like to know what the impact of the pipe downstream is experiencing.

R. Frangione will add more sub-watersheds in his calculation and will also attempt to decipher which direction water is flowing - southerly and easterly.

He predicts that the analysis will take an estimated time of 2-3 weeks, which is necessary to allow for new analysis and for Amrik Matharu; Town Engineer II to review.

C. Kelly said that the next large impediment is the culvert further downstream on Treadwell. It'll need to be determined whether that culvert can handle the extra flow.

Additionally, C. Kelly also suggested a change in analysis to be expressed in percentage (%), rather than numeric values which would be most beneficial and more relatable for the Commissioners.

Mr. Bernheim and Ms. Auber noted that 10 Treadwell Avenue is the downstream property and is owned by Mark Palmer. He wrote a letter confirming he has seen no change to his property since the installation of the additional 18" culvert. The Commission asked for a copy of the letter.

C. Kelly also reminded the commissioners and owners that this is not a cure for their flooding problem or that of the neighborhood as this new culvert does not even accommodate a 1 year storm surge.

P. Lobdell thinks it may be a good idea in the future for the Commission to send a message to the Town, indicating that they should look at the town-owned culvert on Treadwell as a future municipal stream improvement project.

P. Davis asked for clarification of capacity of the new culvert.

R. Frangione stated the culvert will only handle a 1 year storm; and that even installing a box culvert instead will only maybe handle a 5 year storm.

A. Rycenga asked for the stats on the municipal culvert.

C. Kelly stated Engineering could not find enough data on the culvert as to size. He also remarked that "Smart Vents" were discussed at the last meeting and asked if any thought had been given to that suggestion.

R. Frangione commented that yes, they would like to install them in at the back wall only of the garage, once a resolution has been determined with the Commission.

It was agreed upon by the Commission staff that R. Frangione needs to adjust his analysis to meet the recommendations and required information regarding downstream impacts and diversion of flow that occurs.

The next meeting for a Continued Show Cause Hearing on the Violation of 12 Treadwell Avenue is scheduled for, Tuesday, March 5th @ 11:00 a.m. at Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT.

In the meantime, R. Frangione will be resubmitting revised planting plans to the Conservation Department as well as providing additional analysis to the Engineering Department to review prior to the next scheduled meeting. If the revised plans and review by the Town of Engineering Department is not done by March 5, 2019, the meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled to a later date.

Motion to adjourn: Rycenga Second: Lobdell

Ayes: Rycenga, Lobdell, Davis, Perlman, Carey, Shea Vote: 6:0:0.

Hearing adjourned at 11:43 A.M.