

Shutesbury Conservation Commission

Minutes – 06/27/2024

Approved – 7/18/24

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Start: 7:00pm

Commissioners Present: Beth Willson, Robert Douglas, Scott Kahan, Janice Rowan

Other Staff: Carey Marshall (Land Use Clerk)

Other present: Mark Rivers, Doug Serrill, Joyce Braunhut, Mike Stotz, Joseph Salvador, Penny Jaques, Mary Anne Antonellis, and all other unidentified individuals.

Chair's Call to Order at 7:00pm

Meeting is being recorded

Unanticipated Business

LUC Departure – Carey Marshall is leaving to start a new job on July 8. A candidate to replace her will be interviewed next week. She will help with the transition. Rowan will help with Minutes in July.

Minutes

Tabled

57-59 Shore Drive/West (DEP FILE #286-0300) Administrative Approval Request

Doug Serrill is from The Berkshire Design Group, Inc. representing Donna and Gary West of 57-59 Shore Drive. In May they requested and received an AOOC due to architectural changes that resulted in a reduction in the footprint. During their discussions, the applicants were not looking to have a garage structure as original proposed; only a drive way with parking spaces. The applicants are now requesting for an Administrative Approval to change the Amended Order of Conditions and Site Plan to include the garage again.

Serrill screenshares the revised site plan for 57-59 Shore Dr via screenshare to review with SCC. SCC has no concerns with this request. He reads aloud the finding of fact F-1 Section A from the AOOC as it is the main focus of the Administrative Approval Request;

a. Changing the layout and footprint of the house including removal of the garage, storage room, and retaining wall on the north end of the building, and addition of a raised deck on piers at the southwest corner of the building. These changes decrease the overall footprint of the house. The former garage area will now be part of the gravel driveway.

Serrill clarifies the requested change is remove the mention of the garage in beginning of the statement and omit the entire last sentence. By making the requested change to this finding of fact statement would homeowners to build the garage as they now desire. He is also requesting

that F-13 be amended to include the newly revised site plan that shows the garage as part of the plan. SCC has no concerns or comments. There is no public comments.

Motion: Rowan moves to approve the Administrative Approval Request for 57-59 Shore Dr, Kahan seconds. **Vote:** Douglas – Aye, Kahan – Aye, Rowan – Aye, Willson – Aye. **The motion carries.**

Willson will write the Administrative Approval letter.

Shutesbury Wetlands Protections Bylaw and Regulations discussion

SCC shares their appreciation regarding their meeting last night discussing the proposed revision to the Wetlands Protection Bylaw Regulations with Miriam DeFant. Willson states she has spoken with Town Counsel to confirm her attendance at the July 11 meeting to provide comments and guidance the approved Bylaw and the A.G Office Approval letter.

Willson proposed that the Commission continue to review and update the Regulations, but only a few sections at a time every meeting or until the revision is completed. On July 11, the review will begin with Articles 1 and 3, the Introduction and General Provisions.

66 Leverett Rd / Lot O-32 (DEP File #286-0304) Native Planting List and Landscaping Management Plan

Penny Jaques announced that a contract for the construction of the library has been signed; construction to begin sometime in July. She confirmed that the Trash Removal Plan was completed as planned. Step one of the invasive species management plan was completed. Brian Colleran did a site visit and sprayed aquanite onto the invasive plant species as discussed.

Jaques presented the native plant list and landscape maintenance plan for the new library. Jaques screenshares the native planting list via screenshare for SCC to review. She clarifies that the milkweed will be planted after construction has been complete. SCC has no questions or concerns. Willson and Kahan compliment the list.

Jaques shares that the landscape architect made the landscaping maintenance plan that included items that were not so important to SCC but rather other consultants involved. She asks if SCC has read the architects' plan but more specifically the sections on how the wet meadow will be maintained. SCC confirms they have not yet read it. Willson asks if she could summarize it specially the areas discussing how the meadow will be maintained over time and that the plan can be complete by an average person and not an engineer.

Willson asks when the native planting plan would commence. Mary Anne Antonellis, Library Director, states that they presume the initially seeding and planting down by the contractors would be done during the spring of next year.

Jaques states that the complexity of it being too complicated for the average person was a concern for her as well. She discussed this concern with the architect many times to ensure the plan can be executed properly by the average person. Marshall share the site plan for the landscaping plan via screenshare for SCC to review. Jaques clarifies the color legend and the location with what the color legend relates to. The contractor will install the all seeded areas as

planned. The restored wetland located at the bottom of the plan and colored dark green is not included in the plan as it has already been seeded and growing from the restoration project. The brown sections of the plan will be planted with the native species list that was previously discussed. The few small bright green areas will be regularly mowed lawn to be dedicated for library events and children programs. The contractor will be responsible for the first year of grass growth in this area and once completed the town will take responsibility; contractor will place temporary irrigation system during that first year only. The gray areas outline in a dotted line indicate trees or shrubs being placed. The contractor will place all trees and shrubs on the outer edges of the property. The contractor will be responsible for the first year of grass growth in this area and once completed the town will take responsibility. Volunteers will be executing the native planting plan once the building is complete. She clarifies the groundbreaking ceremony is a symbolic ceremony to start the project. Jaques adds that it is a time to thank all the representatives who have supported the project.

Kahan asks if Jaques could further explain the mowing and maintenance plan for the wet meadow specifically the warm meadow. Jaques clarifies that the warm meadow is to be seeded and grow into maturity at the desired height of two to three feet which is to occur in the second growing season. She understands that this area will be mowed once a year in the fall. This will be completed with the highway department in late November or late April based on optimal conditions; dry soil that can be driven on any compaction. Jaques and Kahan share opposing opinions on whether the warm meadow should be mowed once a year or not. It is Kahan's understanding and experience that mowing in the fall can disrupt regrowth of the following season and allow invasive species to establish more. Jaques has the understanding and experience that mowing has reduced invasive species and that woody growth needs to be controlled due to the warm meadow being placed on top of the septic system field; as told by the architect. Jaques believes she and Kahan should discuss this more and notes that currently the wet meadow has an increased presence of invasive species due to the lack of mowing over the past two years. There was some discussion about the sequence of events and timing of seeding, mowing, etc.

Jaques notes that some of the clumps of trees that are being removed are covered in several different types of invasive species and hopes that it will decrease the speed of the other locations of these invasive species; Bittersweet, Buckthorn, Multi-flora Rose, and Barberry. Willson believes that the combination of all the plans (invasive species management plan, native planting plan and landscaping plan) will drastically improve the site and decrease the presence/growth of invasive species. She also appreciates the included language about pesticides. Jaques states she modeled it after the statement that was included in the invasive management plan. Antonellis agrees they intend to not use any pesticides at all unless it was deemed an absolute must in which they would ask the commission.

Jaques asks Kahan if he could email her these questions regarding the mowing as previously discussed. Kahan recites his understanding and clarifies that his concern is mainly over the annual mowing. He encourages Jaques to think about less frequent mowing schedule and if the area is to be mowed then thinking about the sterilization of mowing equipment and the direction of which to mow in as it can help decrease invasive growth. He will send over some of the studies he has

read in relation to this top as he discussed. Jaques appreciates him doing so. SCC has no further concerns or questions. There is no public comments.

Motion: Rowan moves to accept and approve the Native Species Planting Plan and Landscape Maintenance Plan as discussed with the understanding the mowing may change, Kahan second. and Willson, Douglas, Kahan and Rowan voted to accept the Plan. **Vote:** Douglas – Aye, Kahan – Aye, Rowan – Aye, Willson – Aye. **The motion carries.**

70 Lake Drive/Rivers NOI (DEP FILE #286-0306) Continued Public Hearing

This is a continued Public Hearing from last meeting for a project to extend the deck and enclose a portion for a mud room and screened porch. Douglas recused himself from this project as he is a direct abutter. Willson and Rowan conducted a site visit on June 20. It is a straight forward project with little soil disturbance expected since new supports will be drilled helical piles. Equipment can be driven on the well-established lawn. Kahan watched the video of the last meeting and Mark Rivers gave a quick summary of the planned project. Rivers noted that the project will help retrofit the home for accessibility. Silt fences will be installed between the work and the lake. There were no other public comments.

Motion: Rowan moves to approve the 70 Lake Dr NOI, Kahan seconds. **Vote:** Douglas – Aye, Kahan – Aye, Rowan – Aye, Willson – Aye. **The motion carries.**

The OOC will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting July 11, 2024.

Site Visits and Scheduling

None

Public Comment

None

Motion to Adjourn: Douglas moves to adjourn, Rowan seconds. **Vote:** Douglas – Aye, Kahan – Aye, Rowan – Aye, Willson – Aye. **The motion carries.**

Meeting Close: 8:30pm

Next Meeting: July 11, 2024 at 7:00pm

Documents Used

- 57-59 Shore Dr Revised Site plan
- Native Species List Plan
- Landscaping Maintenance Plan and Site Plan
- 70 Lake Drive NOI Site Plan