## **RECEIVED**

By Darlene Brady at 11:07 am, Feb 28, 2023

## **TOWN OF KENT INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION**

41 Kent Green Boulevard P.O. Box 678 Kent, CT 06757 Phone (860) 927-4625

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Inland Wetlands Commission held a regular meeting via zoom on Monday, February 27, 2023.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Werner called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

#### 2. ROLL CALL AND APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES, IF REQUIRED

**Commissioners Present:** Lynn Werner, Chairman; Ken Deitz, Ken Johnson, Marge Smith

Staff Present Tai Kern, Land Use Administrator

Donna Hayes, Assistant Land Use Administrator

Ms. Smith moved to add agenda items 5.F and 5.G. Mr. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### 3. READING OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Regular Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2023. 3.A.

Mr. Deitz moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023, as submitted. Mr. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### 4. **OLD BUSINESS**

4.A. Application # 1301-23, Cheryl Gould, 147 Treasure Hill Rd, Map 17, Block 32, Lot 23, improve drainage from upper pond to lower pond, improve existing gravel driveway to back field and construct a guest house with a septic system.

Mr. Jason Dismukes was present for the applicant. Ms. Kern reminded the Commission of the additional information they had requested at the last meeting regarding this application and said that Mr. Dismukes had supplied some of the information. She continued that there was a site walk. Ms. Kern said that Mr. Yagid relayed his thoughts to her regarding the site walk and said that he better understood the plan He reported he viewed the neighboring site and noted that due to the slope, most of the runoff was coming from here. It was also noted that there was prior cutting done in the wetland that was not indicated on the plan. Mr. Johnson said that he had no issues with the proposed plan and did not see an issue with the

Kent Inland Wetlands Regular Minutes 02/27/2023

diversion. Ms. Kern said that there was some tree cutting behind the garage and recommended that it be added to the application. Ms. Werner asked about the potential benefit of native plantings around the pond. Ms. Kern said that the site lacks vegetation and any vegetation would be beneficial once it was established.

Mr. Dismukes said that a wet meadow seed mix will be used on the slope and would not be regularly mowed, but might be brush hogged yearly or bi-yearly. This is being called out on the new site plan. He asked how to add the tree cutting and Ms. Kern answered that he or the property owner should come in and amend the application. Mr. Dismukes said that he did not believe that any remediation would be beneficial to the previously cut area. Ms. Werner said that the number of trees that were taken out and how they were taken out should be added to the application. Ms. Smith agreed and said that looking at the remaining stump could determine the size and type of trees that were removed.

Mr. Dismukes said that Mr. Hock sent him a note that the trees that were cut were 6" or smaller. The intent was to restore it back to a meadow and the owner had no understanding that this work was being done within a regulated area. Ms. Werner said that small trees might be beneficial. Mr. Deitz asked what the difference was between installing a wet meadow mix near the lower pond and installing it in the upper area as well. Mr. Dismukes clarified that the wet planting mix would be installed near the upper pond as well. Ms. Kern said that some type of planting is in order to replace what was taken out and felt that the seed mix would suffice as long as it becomes established.

Ms. Werner said that since the information was received late today, she would like some time to review the site plan and ensure that all the information was provided. Ms. Kern said that she felt Mr. Dismukes should have a clear understanding of what the Commission requires prior to the next meeting.

Ms. Smith moved to continue Application # 1301-23, Cheryl Gould, 147 Treasure Hill Rd, Map 17, Block 32, Lot 23, improve drainage from upper pond to lower pond, improve existing gravel driveway to back field and construct a guest house with a septic system. Mr. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**4. B.** Application # 1302-23, Alicia Wilson, 4 South Rd., Map 10, Block 40, Lot 37, removal of stump and deposit of materials within regulated area (after-the-fact application)

Ms. Kern informed the Commission that all information was provided and the application was amended to include the additional planting plan.

Mr. Johnson moved to approve Application # 1302-23, Alicia Wilson, 4 South Rd., Map 10, Block 40, Lot 37, removal of stump and deposit of materials within regulated area (after-the-fact application). Mr. Deitz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**4.C.** Application # 1303-23, Dean Gregory for Allen & Ann Perl, 7 Gorham Rd., Map 15, Block 22, Lot 17, crossing for single family home.

Ms. Kern said that the Commission seemed satisfied with what was presented at the last meeting. Having no additional questions or comments, the Commission moved the motion.

Ms. Smith moved to approve Application # 1303-23, Dean Gregory for Allen & Ann Perl, 7 Gorham Rd., Map 15, Block 22, Lot 17, crossing for single family home. Mr. Deitz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Kent Inland Wetlands Regular Minutes 02/27/2023

### 5. **NEW BUSINESS**

Application # 1304-23, Kent Park & Recreation for Town of Kent, 38 Maple Street, Map 5.A. 4, Block 12, Lot 4, replacement of existing playground equipment and associated site

Mr. Jared Kuczenski, P&R Director, was present to address the Commission. Ms. Kern explained that the existing playscape and underlying material is proposed to be replaced within the regulated area. The application contains all the information necessary on how this will be done. She continued that she and the applicant discussed silt fencing, erosion control and the plans for machinery access.

Mr. Kuczenski said that the contractor has done this before and he believes that everything will be done according to plan. Ms. Werner suggested that Mr. Kuczenski visit the site to make sure that the erosion controls and silt fencing remain in place during the construction.

Ms. Smith moved to continue Application # 1304-23, Kent Park & Recreation for Town of Kent, 38 Maple Street, Map 4, Block 12, Lot 4, replacement of existing playground equipment and associated site work to the next regular meeting. Mr. Deitz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5.B. Extension Request Application #1277-22F, Timothy Casey for Hillside North Main, LLC, 0 North Main Street, Map 10, Block 42, Lots 4 and 5, forestry operation.

Ms. Kern said that the applicant has requested an extension to complete the work prior to the expiration of the permit and there were no changes.

Mr. Johnson moved to extend Application #1277-22F, Timothy Casey for Hillside North Main, LLC, 0 North Main Street, Map 10, Block 42, Lots 4 and 5, forestry operation for one year. Ms. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5.C. Modification Request Application #1190-19, Howard & Donna Smith, 81 Kent Hollow Road, Map 16, Block 24, Lot 1, construction of single-family home, driveway, septic, underground utilities and associated site work- modification of brook limits and addition of 10,000 gal. stormwater storage tank.

Ms. Kern explained that the applicant had requested their Certificate of Zoning of Compliance and after looking at the as-built it was noted that some of the distances were different, the driveway seems to be meandering differently and none of the site work has been completed at this time. Mr. Neff was present to address the differences on the as-built.

Mr. Neff said that the house is still under construction, the rain gardens have not been installed and much of the site work has not been completed. He explained that a 10,000-gallon stormwater storage tank was added and the water would be used on site. With regard to the house placement, Mr. Neff said that he believes the difference between what was proposed and the as-built is due to the actual size of the brook which was narrower when they originally presented and wider now due to the increase in the brook flow. He believes the structure is a 17' closer than what was originally proposed and this was due to the increase in the flow. Mr. Neff said that he believes the original survey was based on the water location and not the brook edge. He believes that the house is exactly where it was proposed.

Kent Inland Wetlands Regular Minutes 02/27/2023

When asked what was in between the house and the brook, Mr. Neff said that there is nothing happening there. When asked what the elevation was, Mr. Neff said it was about 50' or 60' down toward the brook. Mr. Neff said that he believes everything that was proposed has been maintained.

Ms. Werner asked if the new tank was to collect the runoff from the living roof. Mr. Neff said that it was and that it will be used for irrigation and is not intended to replace the rain gardens. Ms. Kern said that she understands how important the rain gardens were and would not feel comfortable issuing a Certificate of Zoning Compliance as requested for work that was not completed unless the Commission agreed.

Mr. Smith, property owner, said that they have never implied that the site work will not be completed and said that he resents the implication. Ms. Werner said that was what not what Ms. Kern was implying and that it was the fact that she is not comfortable signing off on something that is not complete. Ms. Werner explained that she questioned the installation of the storage tank, but also wanted confirmation that if Ms. Kern signs off on the work, they are confirming that the work has been done. She continued that Ms. Kern was just doing her job.

Mr. Neff said that there was a meeting today with the contractors regarding the rain garden installation. That work will be done and there will be no modification to the ones on either side of the driveway. Ms. Werner asked if the tank will discharge toward the brook. Mr. Neff said there is a shut off on the tank and the water will migrate towards the brook, but it will allow the storage of the water to be used on the site. Ms. Werner asked if this will change the plan and also asked if it will impact the plantings in a negatively way. Mr. Neff said there will be no change to the plan and did not think it will impact the rain gardens.

Ms. Werner questioned how this can be signed off on when it is not completed. Mr. Deitz asked if this was a modification. Ms. Kern said that she will hold off on the certificate of zoning compliance until all the site work is completed. Ms. Werner said that the Commission will approve the modification.

Ms. Kern asked about the redesign of the driveway. Mr. Neff said that there are some modifications that were discussed today and none of the grades exceed 15% and the changes are to allow for emergency vehicle access. There will be some modifications from what had been submitted on the as-built in order to comply with the original plan and what was submitted to the Commission.

Ms. Werner clarified that the modifications being requested are the installation of the storage tank and the change to the distance to the brook.

Mr. Deitz moved to approve Modification Request Application #1190-19, Howard & Donna Smith, 81 Kent Hollow Road, Map 16, Block 24, Lot 1, construction of single-family home, driveway, septic, underground utilities and associated site work—modification of brook limits and addition of 10,000 gal. stormwater storage tank. Mr. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**5.D.** Application # 1306-23, Doug Wynn (Victor Lewis), 316 Kent Cornwall Rd., Map 8, Block 22, Lot 15, construction of carport and associated site work.

Mr. Doug Wynn was present to address the Commission. Ms. Kern explained that the proposal is to install a carport on gravel. The area is flat and grassy and there will not be very much disturbance to the regulated area. The only deposition will be the gravel and no trees will be removed.

Mr. Deitz asked that contours be added to the site plan.



Kent Inland Wetlands Regular Minutes 02/27/2023

Mr. Deitz moved to continue Application # 1306-23, Doug Wynn (Victor Lewis), 316 Kent Cornwall Rd., Map 8, Block 22, Lot 15, construction of carport and associated site work to the next regular meeting. Ms. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**5.E.** Application 1307-23, George & Rosemarie Bosson, 22 Spooner Hill Rd, Map 5, Block 12, Lot 102, construction of dwelling, driveway, well and associated site work.

Mr. Ralph Gallagher, representing the applicants, was present to address the Commission. Ms. Kern explained that this application was originally approved in 2009 and then it was modified to change the owners and that application expired in 2015.

Mr. Gallagher explained that the house is slight; different and the driveway had been modified to come off the other side of the septic system. A pool had been added as well. Mr. Gallagher said that very little runoff will enter the wetlands. Ms. Werner asked how close to the wetlands and Mr. Gallagher said it was 34' and the limit of disturbance is 20. Mr. Deitz clarified that the southerly wetlands will be the one that will be impacted. Mr. Gallagher said that the septic system has been in for 5 years. There will be a stormwater management gallery at the bottom of the driveway.

Mr. Johnson asked if this was part of the Highland Estates sub-division and Ms. Kern said that the original application was given an address of 55 Highland. It was determined that coming in from Spooner would be less impactful and that is why the address changed.

Ms. Kern said that she did not think there was any significant changes from the last application. Mr. Deitz asked why the footing drain was directed to the wetland and Mr. Gallagher said that the drain is under the slab and they would need to blast to redirect it. There will be minimal water.

Ms. Smith moved to continue Application 1307-23, George & Rosemarie Bosson, 22 Spooner Hill Rd, Map 5, Block 12, Lot 102, construction of dwelling, driveway, well and associated site work to the next regular meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**5.F.** Application #1308-23, Roland & Betsey Levesque Jr., 205 Bulls Bridge Road, Map 6, Block 12, Lot 21, Construct driveway to proposed barn.

Mr. Jason Dismukes, engineer, and Mr. Levesque, property owner, were present. Ms. Kern explained that the plan is to install a driveway to a new barn at the rear of the property.

Mr. Dismukes explained that during the identification of wetland areas, the soil scientist determined that a man-made ditch with no wetland soils or water with a 15" pipe at the end was not part of the regulated area. There area is part of an existing farm road to the back of the property. Mr. Dismukes said the area is similar to a driveway culvert with no water. There is a watercourse that enters into the culvert when it is very wet. The ditch sheet flows over the lower pastures to the field.

Ms. Werner noted that there was a considerable amount of driveway in the regulated area and the barn is outside of that area. Mr. Johnson asked for verification that the driveway will be gravel and this was confirmed.

Ms. Werner asked how they will cross the ditch area. Mr. Dismukes said that an additional 15" culvert will be installed which he feels will be definitely be large enough to handle any water.

### Kent Inland Wetlands Regular Minutes 02/27/2023

Ms. Kern had no concern of there being any impact to the wetlands by the barn. She continued that she had the same concerns as the Commission with regard to the abrupt ending to the wetlands with regard to the crossing. The soil scientist's report was agreed to be provided for the next meeting.

Ms. Smith moved to continue Application #1308-23, Roland & Betsey Levesque Jr., 205 Bulls Bridge Road, Map 6, Block 12, Lot 21, Construct driveway to proposed barn. Mr. Deitz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**5.G.** Application #1309-23, Davis Road Investments, 85 Davis Road, Map 16, Block 22, Lot 17, tree removal in regulated area.

Mr. Du Kechols was present representing the property owners. He explained that there are 4 dead hemlocks on the North Spectacle Lake side of the property. The plan is to bring in a crane to remove cut out sections of the trees for processing offsite. Ms. Werner asked how close the trees were to the lake and Mr. Kechols said that two were approximately 5' from the lake and two more closer to the house.

Ms. Werner asked about the crane location. Mr. Kechols said that they will bring the crane down to the end of the driveway and it will reach all 4 trees from that location. Ms. Werner asked how far the crane would be from the trees on the lake side. Mr. Kechols said that he did not know, but was told that the crane can reach them. The stumps will remain.

Ms. Werner asked if there were any other hemlocks that were in danger. Mr. Kechols said that there were at least 3 others, but they are not located in the regulated area.

Ms. Kern felt that this was a good plan and had no concerns.

Mr. Deitz moved to continue Application #1309-23, Davis Road Investments, 85 Davis Road, Map 16, Block 22, Lot 17, tree removal in regulated area to the next meeting. Ms. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### 6. <u>COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMMISSION</u>

### A. WRITTEN

### **6.A.1.** Bylaws Review per Section VI

Ms. Kern reminded the Commission that the order of business was questioned at the last meeting. She found that the flip-flop of old business and new business occurred between 11/96 and 1/97 and that the changed order seems to have happened for no apparent good reason. Ms. Kern reordered tonight's agenda to reflect the correct order indicated in the By-Laws. Gender neutral changes had been addressed previously and the ordering issue was the only concern.

Ms. Smith moved to approve the changes made to the By-Laws at the January 2023 meeting. Mr. Deitz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- **6.A.2.** Aquatic Pesticide Applications
  - Avian Pond, 346 Kent Cornwall Road
  - Ore Hill Pond, 33 Ore Hill Road
  - Bulls Bridge GC Pond, 71 Bulls Bridge Road

Kent Inland Wetlands Regular Minutes 02/27/2023

### • Boccuzzi Pond, 108 Anderson Road

It was decided that the members would review the applications and report back to Ms. Kern if there were issues. With regard to the Boccuzzi Pond application, Mr. Deitz questioned the information on page 8 of the application which lists items that are not invasives and the noted that several application questions were left unanswered. There was a level of frustration due to the fact that it is obvious that no one at the State level is reviewing the applications. Ms. Werner suggested that Ms. Kern call the DEEP and try to reach someone to discuss the fact that non-invasives are being treated. She also suggested that Ms. Kern contact someone at CACIWC and gave Ms. Kern a couple of names to contact.

On another note, Ms. Werner said that there is a piece of wetlands legislation that will require that all Commission members be required to attend formal training.

### **6.A.3.** Housatonic Herbicide Working Group – Request for Support

Ms. Kern explained that Mr. Bruce Bennet, the Town's tree warden, is Kent's representative for this group. The group is asking for the Commission's support in their presentation to the legislation for changes to the application of pesticides along the railroad.

Ms. Werner referred the Commission to the Cornwall Conservation Commission's letter. She suggested that the Commission frame something similar to this letter and volunteered to work with Ms. Kern on drafting something. Ms. Smith said that she has no problem endorsing anything that Mr. Bennett is involved in. Ms. Werner agreed with Mr. Deitz and said that something should be crafted without referencing the technical papers. She asked Ms. Kern to put something together for the Commission's review with finalization to be done by Ms. Werner and Ms. Smith.

### **6.A.4**. Proposed Fine Ordinance

Ms. Kern reminded the Commission that they had discussed this last month and she created a proposed ordinance based on a couple of local towns. She included a statement that the fines would go to the general fund or the land acquisition fund. Ms. Werner said that some fines go to the State and Ms. Kern agreed that there are some but these fines are at a town level enabled by ordinance. Ms. Kern asked that the Commission review it and if okay, she will submit it to Atty. Zizka for review. Ms. Werner asked that Ms. Kern email her draft to the members and schedule a special meeting for discussion.

### **B. VERBAL**

No action.

### 7. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Hayes

Donna M. Hayes

Assistant Land Use Administrator

Kent Inland Wetlands Regular Minutes 02/27/2023



# TOWN OF KENT INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION



41 Kent Green Boulevard P.O. Box 678 Kent, CT 06757 Phone (860)927-4625

# BY LAWS KENT INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

# ARTICLE I Purpose and Authorization

The objectives and purpose of the Inland Wetlands Commission of Kent are those set forth in Section 131a (Conservation) and Sections 22a-36 to 15 (Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act), of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended to August 1, 1989 and those powers and duties delegated to the Kent Inland Wetlands Commission by ordinance establishing same of July 15, 1988, in accordance with the above enabling law.

### ARTICLE II Name

The Commission shall be known as the Inland Wetlands Commission.

## ARTICLE III Office of the Agency

The office of the Commission shall be at Town Hall where all Commission records will be kept. Copies of all official documents, records, maps, etc., will be filed or recorded in the Town Hall.

# **ARTICLE IV Membership**

The membership and terms of office shall be specified in the above stated ordinance, as amended, establishing the Commission, and the aforementioned General Statutes.

## ARTICLE V Officers and Their Duties

- <u>Section 1.</u> The officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. A Secretary, may be appointed at the discretion of the Commission.
- <u>Section 2.</u> The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the Commission and shall have duties normally conferred by parliamentary usage in such offices. Standing or special committees may be appointed by the Chairman for purposes and terms which the Commission approves. The Chairman shall have the authority to certify expenditures of funds up to \$100.00 without prior approval of the Commission, call special meetings and generally perform other duties as may be prescribed in these bylaws.
- <u>Section 3.</u> The Chairman shall be one of the Commission members. The Chairman shall have the privilege of discussing all matters before the Commission and of voting thereon.
- <u>Section 4.</u> The Vice-Chairman shall act for the Chairman in their absence and have the authority to perform the duties prescribed for that office. That person shall be a member of the Commission.
- <u>Section 5.</u> The Secretary, also a Commission member, shall keep the minutes and records of the Commission and attend to correspondence of the Commission and such other duties as are normally carried out by a Secretary or the Commission may retain a clerk or other administrative staff to handle some or all of these duties.
- <u>Section 6.</u> In the absence of the Secretary, due to illness, personal or disqualification reasons, the Chairman shall appoint a Secretary pro tem.
- <u>Section 7.</u> The Chairman shall propose the Commission budget to the Board of Finance in February of each year. The Wetlands Enforcement Officer shall receive and present all bills over \$100.00 to the Commission and shall keep records of the available and expended funds and report on same to the Commission at intervals.

## ARTICLE VI Election of Officers

- <u>Section 1.</u> An annual organizational meeting shall be held on the third Monday of December, at which time officers will be elected and bylaws reviewed and be made a part of the minutes of the annual meeting. Five members or alternates must be present before election of officers can take place.
- <u>Section 2.</u> Nominations shall be made from the floor at the annual organizational meetings and elections of the officers specified in Section 1 of Article V shall follow immediately thereafter.

- <u>Section 3.</u> A candidate receiving a majority vote from the entire membership of the Commission shall be declared elected and shall serve for one year or until his successor shall take office.
- <u>Section 4.</u> Vacancies in office shall be filled by regular election procedure as prescribed in preceding sections of this Article.
- <u>Section 5.</u> Resignations from the Commission shall be in written form and transmitted to the Chairman, who will then forward same to the executive officer of the community.

## **ARTICLE VII Meetings**

- <u>Section 1.</u> Regular meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall except that in December, it will be held on the third Monday. In the event of conflict with a holiday, the meeting will be rescheduled to another appropriate day. A majority at any meeting may change the date of or cancel a future meeting.
- <u>Section 2.</u> Members of the Commission may participate in a regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all members of the Commission participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A member of the Commission participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.
- <u>Section 3.</u> Four members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, and the number of votes necessary to transact business.
- <u>Section 4.</u> All Commission meetings shall be open to the public except when in executive session, when so voted by the majority of the Commission members present and voting.

## ARTICLE VIII

## **Conducting Meetings**

<u>Section 1.</u> Unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of the Commission, the order of business at regular meetings shall be:

- 1. Call to order.
- 2. Roll call and appointment of alternates if required.
- 3. Reading and approval of minutes of previous meetings.
- 4. Applications.
- 5. Old business.
- 6. New business.
- 7. Communications to the Commission.
  - A. Written
  - B. Verbal
- 8. Adjournment.
- <u>Section 2.</u> A motion from the floor must be made and passed in order to dispense with any item on the agenda or change the order of business.
- <u>Section 3.</u> No new business or applications submitted for action by the Commission shall be accepted or acted upon unless it is submitted according to State legislatively established timeframes or unless such submission is accepted by a majority vote of the Commission.
- <u>Section 4.</u> Unless otherwise specified, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings at the meetings of the Commission.

# ARTICLE IX Public Hearings

- <u>Section 1.</u> The Commission may hold public hearings, in addition to required hearings, when it decides that such hearings will be in the public interest.
- <u>Section 2.</u> All public hearings prescribed by law shall be held in accordance to the requirements set forth for such hearings in Sections 22a-42c.
- <u>Section 3.</u> The Commission Clerk shall take notes and/or the evidence shall be recorded by a sound recording device at each hearing before the Commission in which the right to appeal lies to Superior Court. Proceedings of the hearing shall be incorporated into the permanent records of the Commission.

## ARTICLE X Conducting the Public Hearing

<u>Section 1.</u> The Chairman of the Commission shall preside at the public hearing. In event of his absence, the Vice Chairman or a duly appointed Commission member shall act as a presiding officer.

<u>Section 2.</u> The Chairman shall read the legal advertisement and note the dates and newspapers in which the advertisement appeared.

<u>Section 3.</u> A summary of the question or issue shall be stated by the presiding officer or by a member of the Commission appointed by the presiding officer at the opening of the public hearing. Comments shall be limited to the subject advertised for hearing. In any event, the Commission shall have the privilege of speaking first. The Chairman shall describe the method of conduct of the hearing.

<u>Section 4.</u> The Chairman shall first call for statements from the proponents. The opponents shall be given equal opportunity to comment. The order is reversible, the discretion of the Commission prevailing.

<u>Section 5.</u> It shall be made clear to the hearing that all questions and comments must be directed through the Chairman only after being properly recognized by the presiding officer.

<u>Section 6.</u> All persons recognized may be asked to approach the hearing table in order to facilitate proper recording of comments. Before commenting on the matter before the hearing, each person shall give their name and address.

<u>Section 7.</u> The presiding officer shall assure an orderly hearing and shall take necessary steps to maintain the order and decorum of the hearing at all times. The presiding officer shall reserve the right to terminate the hearing in the event the discussion becomes unruly and unmanageable.

<u>Section 8.</u> The show of hands by those persons present shall not be allowed on any general question presented at the public hearing. The hearing shall be conducted only for the purpose of taking testimony to be considered in deliberations of the regular meeting of the Commission.

# **ARTICLE XI Employees**

<u>Section 1.</u> Within the limits of the funds available for its use, the Commission may employ such staff personnel and/or consultants as it sees fit to aid the Commission in its work. Appointments shall be made by a majority vote of the entire membership. The Chairman may be authorized to sign contracts for employing personnel and contracting for planning services as might be approved by the Commission.

<u>Section 2.</u> The Clerk shall take the minutes of the meetings (regular and special) and file copies with the Town Clerk within 7 days of such meeting. In the event the clerk is not available, one may be appointed by the Chairman to fill in.

## **ARTICLE XII Public Relations**

<u>Section 1.</u> In the matter of the press, radio and television representatives, the Commission shall comply with Chapter 3, Sections 1-19, 1-20, 1-21 of the Connecticut General Statutes, 1958 Revision, as amended.

## ARTICLE XIII Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire voting membership of the Commission, only after the proposed change has been read and discussed at a previous regular meeting except that the bylaws may be changed at any meeting by the unanimous vote of the entire voting membership of the Commission.

Revised February 27, 2023