



CITY OF DANBURY
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT COMMISSION
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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

Web-Based Meeting Hosted on ZOOM

Thursday, November 19, 2020

7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

A special meeting of the Environmental Impact Commission was called to order by Chairman Bernard Gallo at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Gallo explained this is a web-based meeting hosted on ZOOM. Present by roll call: Bernard Gallo, Mary Cronin, Matt Rose, and Alex Wolk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: October 28, 2020

Motion to accept the minutes of October 28, 2020 was made by Matt Rose, seconded by Alex Wolk. Ayes from Messrs. Gallo, Rose, & Wolk. Motion passes.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **December 9, 2020**

OLD BUSINESS:

#1126 60 Backus Avenue, DXR Corporation, (E18015), IL-40 Zone

Mr. Gallo indicated that everyone has a copy of the report. There being no questions or comments, Matt Rose made a motion to approve No. 1126 as a summary ruling with six conditions of approval; seconded by Alex Wolk. There were no remarks. There being no questions or comments, Matt Rose made a motion to approve No. 1126 as a summary ruling with six conditions of approval; seconded by Alex Wolk. There were no remarks. Roll call vote with Ayes from Bernie Gallo, Dr. Mary Cronin, Matt Rose, and Alex Wolk. Motion passes.

#1127 DaSilva, Nery, 210 South King Street, (D07036), RA-40 Zone

Mr. Gallo indicated that everyone has a copy of the report. There being no questions or comments, Matt Rose made a motion to approve No. 1127 as a summary ruling with six conditions of approval;

seconded by Alex Wolk. Roll call vote with Ayes from Bernie Gallo, Dr. Mary Cronin, Matt Rose, and Alex Wolk. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

#1128 75 Kenosia Avenue Ext., City of Danbury, Engine #26, (G18001), IL-40 Zone

Ben Doto, Licensed Professional Engineer, appeared on behalf of the applicant, the City of Danbury Fire Department. The proposal is for an expansion of the Engine 26 facility. Chief Mark Omasta and Abigail Adams, Registered Landscape Architect, were present on the ZOOM meeting. Mr. Doto indicated that Mr. Jim McManus prepared the soils report and the City of Danbury Engineering Department prepared the survey, Friar Architecture, Inc. prepared the architectural drawings.

Mr. Doto explained the existing fire station was constructed about 12 years ago and needs additional storage space at the facility. The original plan was not to do an addition but a separate, stand-alone building across the street on City-owned land. Mr. Doto shared his screen and began with the soils report showing an aerial view of the land. He explained that wetlands were extensive across the street, and the majority of activity would be in the flood plain. The original plan would have had significant impact to the wetlands, disturbing approximately 10,000 to 12,000 sq. ft. and filling of the 100-year flood plain.

Mr. Doto explained an alternative to the initial concept in order to minimize wetlands impact. He spoke with Chief Omasta, and at the time, Chief Wiedl, and considered putting an addition on the existing building, minimizing impact to wetlands and floodplains. The property across the street will be used to mitigate wetlands and couple with flood storage in the floodplain. The proposed addition will be 6,500 sq. ft. addition. The direct wetlands loss of 3,900 sq. ft. will be replaced with about a 6,000 sq. ft. mitigation area across the street. The addition to the existing facility eliminates the need for an office, restroom facilities, separate water and sewer services. Existing parking and curb cut will remain the same. Existing building and proposed addition are set about 1.8' above the 100-year flood plain and are outside of the 100 year-flood plain. It is served by City water and sewer. Mr. Doto showed the architectural drawings. The addition was designed to match and compliment what is currently there. All efforts were made to minimize disturbances.

A site plan application is currently being made, and they are in front of the Planning Commission for a required flood plain permit per Mr. Doto.

Abigail Adams, Registered Landscape Architect and owner of A2 Land Consulting, shared her landscape plan. Ms. Adams explained that the concept for planting for wetlands mitigation is to offering as much buffer as possible and install and propose native plant material to provide wildlife habitat and food source and enhance the existing wetlands. A barrier was created at the drive area with evergreens and native shrubs. Ms. Adams further explained that some lawn area will exist. Some existing scrubby material will be removed, and they will do some grading and create a buffer area with the adjacent property. A wet mix will seed the lower area. She further explained that across the street, existing trees need to be transplanted, and they will be utilized along the streetscape.

Mr. Doto added that this site is not in a City of Danbury drinking water watershed. The parking lot to the northside of proposed addition is not the property line. The property line is two rows of parking spaces up. The addition is a significant distance to nearest neighbor. Mr. Gallo asked if everything is flagged? Mr. Doto said the wetlands are flagged. A site walk will be scheduled.

Chief Omasta thanked Mr. Doto and Ms. Adams and stated this would be a major improvement. He explained that having the addition attached to the existing building will save in many ways. He offered to answer any questions specific to Fire Department activity. Chief Omasta further explained that they are a regional hub with extra equipment and no place to store it.

There being no questions from the Commissioners, Mr. Gallo explained that time would be needed by staff to prepare a report.

Motion to table this application until the next regular meeting on December 9, 2020 was made by Alex Wolk, seconded by Mary Cronin. Roll call vote with Ayes from Bernie Gallo, Dr. Mary Cronin, Matt Rose, and Alex Wolk. Motion passes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL: None

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ACTIONS: None

VIOLATIONS: None

OTHER MATTERS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Matt Rose; seconded by Alex Wolk. Roll call vote with Ayes from Bernie Gallo, Dr. Mary Cronin, Matt Rose, and Alex Wolk. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Larkin
Recording Secretary