

Town of Monroe Conservation Commission

Monroe, New York

July 18, 2020

The Town of Monroe Conservation Commission met for a scheduled "Zoom meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2020 at 8:00pm.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03pm.

Attendance: Joe Corona, Ward Brower III, Charles Pakula, Sandra Dunlap (not in attendance) and Nina Petito/secretary.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- * We have a quorum and the meeting was convened at 8:14.
- * The Town of Monroe Conservation Commission has two vacancies.
- * Phase four of the reopening of the Town of Monroe has begun.

CONSERVATION BUSINESS

- * The site walk on Lakes Road is dormant. Awaiting site walk approvals and request to proceed from the Planning Board.
- * The amended minutes for June were approved. Ward Brower III motioned to approve the amended minutes and Charles Pakula seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- * On Thursday, July 2, 2020, Joe Corona, Ward Brower, Charlie Pakula and Nina Petito completed their site walk of the property titled "81 Raywood Drive".

The Monroe Conservation Commission on July 2, 2020 walked the site at Raywood Drive, Monroe, New York. The following are the commission's findings and recommendations.

OBSERVATIONS ON DEVELOPER'S PLANS:

- 1.1 The detail sheet on protection is excellent and should be followed.
 - 1.a Blue Spruce to be used as a screening between lots
 - 1.b White Pines also to be used as screening
 - 1.c Tree planting protective safety fences around 5 trees on Lot 1; 2 trees on Lot 2 and 3 trees on Lot 3 are satisfactory.
 - 1.d The plans suggest red maple to replace the existing white oak, red oak and chestnut oak on the property.
 - 1.e The plans to do NOT indicate any of the existing white oak, red oak, chestnut oak, highbush blueberry and sweet beech

.2 The planting change is the following:

1.2a. Planting concerns: a galvanized wire is suggested to stabilize the newly planted tree; if not maintained or removed this wire will cut into the tree causing damage. A biodegradable or "Arbortie" is a soft plastic which will not cut the tree bark and it does not unravel like rope. This is recommended to stabilize the young trees.

1.3 The additional changes are the following:

1.3a The plans to not indicate the significant slope in the topography causing runoff which could possibly damage existing houses to the south. A snow fence is needed to protect the existing homes from the runoff and soil erosion.

1.3b Recommendation: During the planting of the new trees, as the hole is dug for the tree an empirical perk test should be performed on each hole to insure adequate drainage and prevent the new tree from drowning. A tree will die if its roots are underwater for a long period of time.

AREAS OF CONCERN AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 Blue spruce and white pines are high indicated as replanting trees for screening both of these types of trees are high maintenance and problematic. The Monroe Conservation Commission believes that one of the Arborvitae such as Green Giant Arborvitae, Thuja standishii should be used as screening. This will also provide more backyard space due to their narrow, tall shape. The arborvitae can grow to a height of 50 feet with a spread of 12 to 20 feet. Growth is approximately 3 feet per year.

SITE WALK OBSERVATIONS:

This site represents one of the last mature growth hardwood forests in a micro size forest found in this area of Monroe. The dominant tree being the red oak, *Quercus rubra*. The Monroe Conservation Commission also found many other hardwood types of trees now listed in descending order white oak, *Quercus alba*; chestnut oak *Quercus prinus*; sweet birch, *Betula lenticularis*; red maple, *Acer rubrum* and others. There were patches of high bush blueberries and of course, poison ivy.

3.1 This 190 by 271 foot, 3 home lots is a heavily vegetative area with much old growth. Trees such as white oak, red oak, chestnut oak, highbush blueberry and sweet beech which will be damaged due to the size of the lot and square footage remaining for the green area.

3.2 Construction vehicles will compact the soil and possibly decrease water infiltration.

- 3.3 The Tree Survey is not representative of what is presently on the property. There is a heavily forested old growth with 100 year old red oaks, white oaks and chestnut oaks. This small forest has not undergone changes for more than 100 years. It contains a diversity of tree species and structures which provides a home for a diversity of wildlife.
- 3.4 The Monroe Conservation Commission also requests that the non-evergreen replacement trees be red oaks. There are few natural red maples but there are many red oaks which should be saved and maintained. Top priority should be used to save as many of the large red oaks as possible. Size is not always an indicator of value. If the largest red oak cannot be saved then a smaller red oak over less desirable, but large other tree types should be the preference.

Joe Corona motioned to approve the Raywood Drive site walk observations. Seconded by Ward Brower III and all voted in favor.

Charles Pakula motioned to adjourn the Zoom meeting which was seconded by Ward Brower III and all voted in favor. Thereupon, Joe Corona adjourned the meeting at 8:33pm.

The next zoom meeting for the Conservation Commission will be held on Thursday, August 18, 2020 at 8:00pm