

be performed are submitted to the Commission prior to the start of work. A brief discussion followed with the applicant Joseph Artioli. Mr. Artioli stated that he will have an aeration device in the pond. After discussion, Vice Chairman Neilson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Benito, to approve the application of Joseph Artioli for the construction of a pond at 659 Hill Street with the following conditions:

Suffield Conservation Commission stipulations 1-11 shall apply. (copy attached).

12) The applicant shall supply the Commission with copies of the test pit logs prior to the start of work.

13) The site is subject to erosion and sedimentation inspections by the Commission and/or its agent. Any fees associated with these inspections are the responsibility of the applicant. Disturbed soils shall be stabilized as soon as possible. Spoils from construction of the pond shall not be placed in wetland areas.

This property is located on the west side of Hill Street, nearest intersection being Russell Avenue. Assessor's Map Number 28, Block 23, Lot 24. This permit is granted in a Summary Ruling, as it is the Commission's determination that the activity will not have a negative impact on wetlands. This permit shall expire on June 8, 2019. The applicant has paid a filing fee of \$ 60.00.

The motion was made and carried unanimously.

Permit # 1646 – Adzigiery (owner) – Yard Fill – 155 Randall Drive. This property is located on the east side of Randall Drive, Assessor's Map 50H, Block 40, Lot 81.

Consultant Morris updated the Commission on this application. The homeowner brought fill into his yard for grading purposes and unknowingly filled in a small amount of wetlands. Jay Urrsery of J R Russo and Associates addressed the Commission on behalf of the applicant. It was determined based on historic aerial photographs and field work by professional Soil Scientist John Ianni, that less than 1,000 square feet of wetlands had been filled and that the overall drainage patterns of the area have not been negatively impacted.

Consultant Morris also stated that the entire fill area had been previously maintained lawn by the previous property owner. After a brief discussion, Vice Chairman Neilson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Reilly to approve the application for an after the fact permit for fill at 155 Randall Drive with the following conditions:

Suffield Conservation Commission stipulations 1-11 shall apply. (copy attached).

12) The site is subject to erosion and sedimentation inspections by the Commission and/or its agent. Any fees associated with these inspections are the responsibility of the applicant. In the spring the area shall be inspected and, if necessary, additional seeding shall take place. Erosion controls shall be left in place until all disturbed soils have been stabilized.

The plan of record is entitled "Wetlands Delineation Plan", by J.R. Russo & Associates, LLC, dated December 3, 2015. Also submitted was a report by Professional Soil Scientist John Ianni, of Highland Soils, dated December 9, 2015. Based on this information and historical aerial photographs, it was determined that approximately 700 square feet of fill (at a depth of 0-6") had been placed within wetland areas. It is the Commission's determination, based on a review of this information, that the fill was placed over previously maintained lawn area and it does not have a negative impact on area drainage patterns.

This property is located at 155 Randall Drive, nearest intersection being Silver Creek Drive. Assessor's Map Number 50H, Block 40, Lot 81. This permit is granted in a Summary Ruling, as it is the Commission's determination that the activity did not have a negative impact on wetlands. The applicant has paid a filing fee of \$ 174.00.

The motion was made and carried unanimously.

Permit # 1647: - Four Season Farm, LLC (applicant) – 11.4 Acre Greenhouse – Poole Road. This property is located at the end of Poole Road, Assessor's Maps 24/29, Block 26, Lots 91/39.

Consultant Morris went over his handouts out to each Commissioner. They included reports from the applicant's Environmental Consultant, a copy of the application, the Town Engineer's report, Mr. Morris's report, and pictures of the site Consultant Morris took at a site inspection last week with town staff.

Jay Ussery J. R. Russo & Associates LLC then presented the project. Four Season Farms LLC is proposing tomato greenhouse farming for land at the end of Poole Road. Mr. Ussery stated that the long term plan is for a 50 acre greenhouse complex on approximately 125 acres of land. This application is for phase I only and involves construction of an 11.4 acre greenhouse facility. The farm will be a state of the art facility using the latest technology including computer controlled light, humidity, and nutrients. Mr. Ussery then went over the details of the operation and the proposed drainage system. Commissioner Benito asked several questions on the drainage impact on the existing swales. Mr. Ussery stated that the stormwater will be discharged to a detention basin prior to entering the existing swales. He handed out pictures detailing each of the five wetland impact areas.

Three of the five fill areas are minor due to placement of rip rap for plunge pool outfalls. He stated that Phase I involves the filling of approximately 6,500 sf of wetlands. Consultant Morris asked if this included any federal jurisdictional wetlands. Mr. Ussery stated he did not think so. He stated that the wetland filled shall be mitigated for by the planting of a 1.15 acre riparian zone along Stony Brook, along with the removal of invasive species.

Professional Soil Scientist Tom Pietras of Pietras Environmental Group then presented his report on the wetland functions and values. All of the wetlands to be impacted are man-made drainage ditches and ponds from years of farming conducted on the site. The majority of wetlands are of low to moderate quality. The site will be transformed from one type of farming to another. There will be no need for pumping water from the existing ponds and brook with the greenhouse facility operating, which will result in more water flowing to Stony Brook during the dry summer months. In addition, following construction, the water quality leaving the site will be much improved over existing conditions. Presently, numerous channels and overland flow drain directly into wetland areas, including Stony Brook, which results in a substantial amount of sediment entering the wetlands and brook. The remainder of the site shall also be vegetated.

Acting Chairman Noble poled the Commission. A discussion followed on effects of the proposed long term construction on the parcel. After discussion, Vice Chairman Neilson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Reilly, to approve the application of Four Season Farms for Phase I, construction of an 11.4 acre greenhouse, with the following conditions:

Suffield Conservation Commission stipulations 1-11 shall apply. (copy attached).

12) The site is subject to erosion and sedimentation inspections by the Commission and/or its agent. Any fees associated with these inspections are the responsibility of the applicant. In addition, during active phases of construction that involve direct wetland impacts or have the potential for wetland impacts, the applicant is required to submit biweekly reports to the Commission from a qualified individual regarding the status of erosion controls and any unforeseen issues involving wetland areas. These reports can be submitted via email to the Commission's consultant.

13) Any revisions to the plans based on the Suffield Zoning and Planning public hearing process shall come back to the Commission for its approval. Revisions may be approved administratively at the discretion of the Commission's agent.

The plans of record are entitled "Four Season Farm, Poole Road & Hale Street, Suffield Connecticut", sheets 1 – 13, by J R Russo & Associates LLC, dated January 13, 2016. Also submitted was a report by Pietras Environmental Group, LLC, entitled "Wetland Functions and Values Report", dated January 18, 2016. Based on this information and input from town staff, it is the Commission's determination that the wetlands impacted are man-made in nature due to previous

farming activities on site and that the project as proposed will improve the overall quality of water leaving the site.

This property is located at the end of Poole Road, Assessor's Map Numbers 24/29, Block 26, Lots 91/39. This permit is for Phase I construction only and is granted in a Summary Ruling as it is the Commission's determination that project as proposed shall not have long term negative impact on wetland areas. The applicant has paid a filing fee of \$ 1,688.60. This permit shall expire on February 9, 2020.

The motion was made and carried unanimously.

CONSULTANT'S REPORT

Consultant Morris has been contacted by the Suffield Garden Association who has an oak tree they would like to plant at the entrance to Stony Brooke Park. Mr. Morris recommended that they contact the Parks Superintendent regarding the location of the tree. After a brief discussion the Commission agreed. Acting Chairman Noble updated the Commission on the budget meeting he and Consultant Morris attended with the First Selectman. A discussion followed on inspecting the Mackinnon open space area on Mapleton Avenue to see if work needed to be done to the trails.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 26, 2016 MEETING

Vice Chairman Neilson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Reilly, to approve the minutes as written. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rich Bosse of 1140 North Street addressed the Commission regarding the possibility of the computer controlled lighting proposed by Four Season Farms for their greenhouse causing Radio Frequency Interference (RTI) in the area. The Commission informed Mr. Ross that he should voice his concerns and the Zoning and Planning public hearing on February 22, 2016. There was no further public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Benito motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reilly. The motion was made and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Norm John Noble

Recording Secretary