



Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission Thursday, May 12th, 2022 at 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Peter Bassermann called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Chairman Peter Bassermann, Richard Greenalch, Suzanne Botta, Clarice Begemann, Jessica Meinsen Probulis, Melissa Funaro, and Mark Steinberg (arrived late)

Commissioners Absent: Melissa Papantones

Staff Present: Jaymie Frederick-IW Agent, Michelle Martin (substitute Clerk)

Chairman Bassermann noted that all Commissioners are seated and can participate in the meeting.

For the record, Commissioner Mark Steinberg joined the meeting at 7:09 pm.

1) MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

a) April 14th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Comm. Botta made a motion to approve the minutes from April 14, 2022.

Comm. Greenalch seconded the motion.

The motion carried. (Y-N-A; 5-0-0)

b) May 4th, 2022 Special Meeting Site Walk Minutes

Comm. Botta made a motion to approve the minutes from May 4th, 2022.

Comm. Begemann seconded the motion.

The motion carried. (Y-N-A; 5-0-0)

2) APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIPT:

- a) BRIW#22.04.01 | 75 Block Island Road (E10/1/2 Branford Sewer Authority Treatment Plant) | Addition of a closed-piped septage receiving unit adjacent to existing building
- J. Frederick noted that the Town Engineer John Hoefflerle & Brian Devlin-Superintendent of the Treatment Plant were also present to give an overview of the project.
 - John Hoefflerle spoke first and reviewed the plan for the septage receiving unit and explained the need for this unit. Jaymie Frederick displayed an aerial colored photo. Chairman Bassermann and the commissioners asked a few questions.
 - Jaymie Frederick asked the commission if they would like a wetlands delineation done for this project? Do they want any additional information? Do they want to do a site walk? The consensus was that the commission is getting answers to their questions.
 - John Hoefflerle gave some additional comments and said they are looking into ways to protect the plant from sea level rise issues and from heavy rains from storms.

b) IW#22.05.01 | 85 Todds Hill | Installation of an above ground pool

i) Possible agent approval

Jaymie Frederick displayed the site plan and explained this is an above ground pool approximately 65 feet away from the wetland and the addition of a retaining wall (under 3 ft tall). She noted that the material they are removing for the installation of the pool will be used in another location on the property to level it. She feels this could be an administrative approval. She noted the property owners were present for any questions.

Jaymie Frederick reviewed the conditions of approval for them. The commission discussed this and agreed this could be approved administratively by staff.

c) IW#22.05.02 | 32 Ramblewood Drive | construction of a deck

- i) Possible agent approval
ii) Consider waiver of soil scientist report

- Jaymie Frederick reviewed the application saying this is a second level deck off the back of the house and displayed an aerial gis map showing the wetland delineation and the watercourse. She met with the property owner on site and took soil samples to see if they were indicative of wetland soils and found some modeling at the edge of the lawn. She didn't test extensively. She said the ground disturbance is limited to the footings, and crushed stone will be placed under the deck; she asked the commission if they felt a soils report was needed. She asked the commission if they approve of an administrative approval for this application. She displayed photos of the site.

Chairman Bassermann asked a few questions and asked the commission for

their comments. The consensus was that no soil scientist is needed and they approved of an administrative approval.

3) APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:

a) IW#22.03.02 | Hemlock Road | address existing erosion issue on embankment

- Jaymie Frederick noted a revised plan was received for this and the project engineer was present to speak and address the questions the Commission had from the previous meeting.
- Gregg Fedus (Fedus Engineering) represented the applicant and displayed a site plan noting they looked at several options to address the issue. He spoke of a large tree at the site and the methods to keep it there. He said work will begin during a dry period over the summer.
- The commission discussed this and asked some questions.
- Jaymie Frederick reviewed the RWA letter and reviewed the staff report.

Comm. Greenalch made a motion to approve IW#22.03.02 (Hemlock Rd) based upon plans submitted by the Engineer and the condition that J. Frederick referred to be included and general provisions and the standard condition.

**Comm. Steinberg seconded the motion.
The motion carried. (Y-N-A 7-0-0)**

b) IW#22.04.02 | 125 Thimble Island Road | Subdividing lot and construction of a new, single family home

- J. Pretti (Criscuolo Engineering) represented the applicant explaining that the proposal is to split another lot on the corner and make almost even split. The applicant proposes to build a new home on the other lot facing the water .He highlighted the site plan and noted that the soil scientist identified the lawn area as an inland wetland.
- The commission asked a few questions.

Comm. Botta made a motion to approve IW#22.04.02 (125 Thimble Island Rd.) with the condition that the applicant return with individual site plan and septic reserve applications.

**Comm. Greenalch seconded the motion.
The motion carried. (Y-N-A 7-0-0)**

4) JURISDICTIONAL RULING REQUEST:

a) 100 Hosley Avenue | RWA | Lake Saltonstall | maintenance of stormwater treatment system

- Chairman Bassermann explained the commission received a letter from the Regional Water Authority and Ron Waters (RWA) was also present. He will explain further.

- Ron Waters said this is the first time they are doing maintenance on this system. It was installed in 1998 and has filled with sediment over time. He noted this is unique in that it is in an area of woods and Inland Wetlands.
- The commission asked some questions and decided to do a site walk. They agreed they would meet on June 2 at Lake Saltonstall at 5 pm.

5) ENFORCEMENT:

- a) 2nd NOV | 20 Huntington Drive | removal of trees and placement of debris
 - Jaymie Frederick explained the history of this starting in 2019 with the removal of trees and the regrowth of vegetation. Then there was woody debris near the Inland Wetland. She contacted the property owner and he did contact a soil scientist. She asked the commission for comments.
 - The commission advised her to follow up and there is no progress made on the site then a cease and correct order will be needed.

- b) CC#22.05.01 & NOV | 35 Bayberry Lane | clearing of vegetation and ground disturbance within 100' of a wetland
 - i) Just cause hearing
 - ii) Review of restoration plan

Jaymie Frederick said the office received a complaint and she sent a notice of violation then a cease and correct. She noted the property owner was In attendance at the meeting for any questions.

The homeowner spoke and said the tree was blown over in a storm then he Removed invasives roses and another tree. So, the clearing was related to the clean up after the storm from 2020.

Commission determined that seeding could commence but that management plan for restoration area addressing maintenance and invasive species management shall be submitted for review.

6) OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) Permit mod request for IW#13.06.03 (Gould Lane Subdivision) and IW#20.11.03 | 65 Gould Lane (single family house)
 - i) Minor modification to drainage

Jaymie Frederick displayed the site plan and gave an update on the site.

Ryan McEvoy spoke next and reviewed the issues, saying the solution is to divert the runoff. This will be an effort to divert surface flow. This will cause no change in the drainage patterns.

Comm. Greenalch made a motion to approve IW#13.06.03 & IW#20.11.03 Minor modifications.

**Comm. Botta seconded the motion.
The motion carried. (Y-N-A 7-0-0)**

b) Commissioner Updates

Comm. Greenalch announced he is stepping down from the commission saying he was 90 years old and it was time for new blood in the group.

Chairman Bassermann and the commission thanked him for his many years of service and wished him well.

- i) New Commissioner
Chairman Bassermann noted that Comm. Meinsen was new and welcomed him into the commission.
- ii) Updates for Commissioners lists
Jaymie Frederick reminded the commissioners to recheck the commission list and verify that all the information is correct.

c) North Branford Adjacent Municipality Application Notification

- i) 33 Off Twin Lakes Road | Construction of a garage

Jaymie Frederick said the commission received this notification because this Property is within 500 feet of the town line. She displayed a GIS photo.

d) Regulation Revisions | Public Hearing set for June 9th, 2022

- i) Meeting location – RE Public Act 22-3

Jaymie Frederick asked the commission if this meeting should be in person or held remotely. The commission discussed this and decided to hold the public hearing via zoom.

7) AGENT APPROVALS

- a) IW#22.04.01 | 45 Deforest Road | construction of a deck adjacent to a pool
- b) IW#22.04.03 | 10 Ashman Court | construction of an above ground pool and deck

Jaymie Frederick reviewed each of the agent approvals.

8) CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a) Fish & Wildlife Service | “Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project”

Jaymie Frederick reviewed the letter noting it is in the dropbox if anyone wants to reread it.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

Submitted by: M. Martin (substitute clerk)