



Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency
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UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Thursday, June 14, 2018 7:30 PM
Canoe Brook Senior Center
11 Cherry Hill Road, Branford, CT

RECEIVED
 2018 JUN 19 P 2:53
 TOWN HALL OFFICE
 BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Present: Peter Bassermann, Suzanne Botta, Richard Greenalch, Sandra Kraus and Rick Ross.

Absent: Jim Goggin, James Sette, Eric Rose and John Kelly.
 Staff Present: EO Diana Ross and IW Asst. Jaymie Frederick

Chairman Bassermann called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.
 All Commissioners present were seated.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 10th, 2018 Regular meeting minutes: Chairman Bassermann noted that on page 2 “to” isn’t necessary in conjunction with “toward the engineered system”

Comm. Greenalch motioned to approve the minutes of the May 10th meeting of the Agency, Comm. Botta seconded. Motion passed (4-0-1); Comm. Kraus abstained due to absence.

OLD BUSINESS:

IW#18.05.04 – 173 Clark Ave – addition to residence

Tony Terry, architect, overviewed the scope of the project which is a residential addition. Went over the wetland area and the proposed plantings between the wetland and the addition. They are not re-contouring anything. They will use hay bales and silt fencing.

Comm. Botta asked if the erosion controls would be above the slope or crest over to be on the slope; if they will be on the slope is there a way to alter it so that they will be above the slope.

After discussion it was determined that the silt fence would be able to bend inwards on the west side towards the work area so that the erosion controls remain above the sloped area.

Comm. Botta stated erosion controls should be inspected after a rain event of 1inch or greater.

Commission briefly discussed the alternative rain gutter system proposed and that it would slow and disperse water.

Comm. Ross motioned to approve the application with the modification of the sedimentation and erosion controls as indicated on the map, penciled in this evening; and add to the sedimentation and erosion controls description that they shall be inspected following any rain event of 1 inch or greater and corrected if out of place in any way; seconded by Comm. Botta. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIPT:

IW#18.06.01 – 417-421 Leetes Island Rd – new garage addition for “Stony Creek Auto Service”

Jim Pretti, with Criscuolo Engineering, stated the garage has been in operation since 1951. There are wetlands to the rear of the property. The proposed addition is to accommodate longer vehicles that don’t fit in the garage. The only site activity will be the excavation for the footings in an existing gravel area. The site is less than a 1% slope and activity is about 70ft from the wetland.

Comm. Botta motioned that application IW#18.06.01, 417-421 Leetes Island Rd, be done administratively, Comm. Ross seconded. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

IW#18.06.02 – 20 Red Rock Rd – install shed (12’x20’), invasive species removal/ management and new plantings

Genevieve Thompson, owner, stated they are looking to replace a shed that they tore down in the fall that was falling apart.

EO Ross stated that she received a call that they were taking down trees - they were taking down invasive tree of heaven. The plan is to plant pines. She suggested that they weed whack the invasives down and then put a deep layer of wood chips to knock back the invasives and give the white pine trees a chance to grow and shade out invasives.

Comm. Botta asked if it would be possible to move the shed out of the upland review area.

G. Thompson stated that there is an oak tree so they would have to turn it and it would intrude on the yard quite a bit. Would be willing to if it is required to be able to put it up.

Commission reviewed current conditions of the area that the shed is proposed.

G. Thompson stated the shed will be used for garden things, tools, possibly a snow blower. It is a pre-furbished shed that will be placed on gravel.

EO Ross stated they are also proposing to fill in sink holes where logs were buried during the lot’s construction and are rotting.

Comm. Ross stated he thinks the biggest issue is making sure that the plantings are right.

Comm. Greenalch motioned to refer this to Diana to handle administratively; Comm. Kraus seconded. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

IW#18.06.03 – 5 Hannah Dr – retaining wall with drainage, minor associated grading activity

EO Ross stated they are proposing a retaining wall just inside the upland review area. Passed out photos, stakes indicate where wall is proposed. She suggested he request to remove two trees that may have been damaged and/or exposed during construction so they are in an unstable condition.

Chairman Bassermann asked if there is an existing drainage issue.

Albert Kunst, owner, stated he is at a low spot and he does have a crack in his foundation that he believes is from water runoff. He has two small children and there is debris in the back which is pretty much impossible to clear, so he wants to define an area for use and discourage use of the area with dangerous debris.

Commission discussed the wall is on the downhill side of a slope away from the wetland.

A. Kunst stated the wall will be cement retaining wall pavers, hasn’t decided which ones he is using yet. He will use a machine to level the yard a bit. There is probably going to be a little bit of fill brought in, he will need top soil to regrow grass.

EO Ross stated the high spot near the edge of the woods at the top of the slope is where the dangerous debris he wants to put the fill over are located and that is the area of concern where he will need to use erosion controls. He will put in drywells to handle drainage from the retaining wall.

Comm. Greenalch motioned that the Commission refer to Diana for administrative action, Comm. Botta seconded; motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

IW#18.06.04 – 35 Beechwood Rd – sunroom extension (new size 19x23)

Kevin Vargas, from S. Fatone Construction, stated they are proposing an extension to the sunroom.

EO Ross stated that there was a bit of an issue with the location of the wetland that needs to be straightened out. Passed out maps with wetland lines. Wetland line is up to 15-20ft closer to activity then shown on the plan submitted.

Commission reviewed proposed activity relative to the existing conditions.

K. Vargas stated they are demolishing the existing sunroom and extending it.

Commission asked if there is a narrative of how the work will be carried out. Discussed the main concern is making sure equipment doesn’t get too close to the wetland.

K. Vargas stated they will access through the gate on the side where the activity will occur. Stated they are proposing geo-textile mats.

S. Botta stated that the proposed type of erosion control is atypical for this kind of project.

EO Ross stated they can work on getting an accurate sketch and appropriate erosion controls. Soils near the wetland are often very soft so could look at whether it would be appropriate to put mats down for equipment to drive on.

Commission discussed they need a clear sediment and erosion control plan, need details for anti-tracking pad at entrance, need protection for the storm drain, the correct wetland line needs to be put on the plan, details about limitations for the machinery with preference for smaller machinery that will leave less of a footprint during construction.

Comm. Greenalch motioned to refer to Diana for administrative approval and in doing so include the conditions that were discussed here at the meeting; Comm. Kraus seconded. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

OLD BUSINESS:

IW#18.05.03 – 348 West Main St (Branhaven) – installation of subsurface stormwater system for peak flow mitigation of increased flow generated from additional impervious ground coverage

Matt Bruton, Engineer from BL Companies, overviewed project is to correct gravel lot that was installed. To mitigate water from sheet flowing off the gravel they added a French drain that will go into the isolator row of the stormwater system. The system has been resized for these flows going to it. Erosion control measures are shown on the plan and they have an operations and maintenance plan for after the system is constructed. Variance has been granted for the impervious coverage.

EO Ross asked engineer to review the pre and post flows and volumes.

M. Bruton went over table 5 in the stormwater report. They are decreasing the peak runoff in all events assessed. This system also provides treatment beyond what is currently on site.

Comm. Botta stated that the area was originally approved as a field and she would assume that is because the system will not deal with hydrocarbons and salts and the like.

M. Bruton stated that the thought process is that by going after the total suspended solids you capture some of those other pollutants because they will bind to the suspended solids.

Comm. Botta asked about the vegetation at the outfall of the existing system.

M. Bruton stated the system currently exits into the existing grass detention basin; the ultimate discharge is through piped and flared end sections. That area has thick vegetation. There is no plan to modify the outlet; they don't want to disturb a stable area.

Comm. Ross stated he went by the site before the meeting and affirmed the area by the outlet is thick with vegetation.

Comm. Botta stated that this is one of those applications that it appears to say it is better to say excuse me than may I. She doesn't like to codify applications like this that went and did something that was specifically out of bonds with the permit that was set forth and then the Commission give it their blessing.

EO Ross stated that it is a new owner since the activity that occurred was done.

M. Burton stated the current owner wasn't aware that it wasn't permitted; a zoning enforcement brought this issue to light.

Comm. Botta stated that she would request that within a motion the Commission is very clear on the record about the specifics of this particular application, this being done by a previous owner and that the goal is to always adhere to the rules and regulations and past permits.

Comm. Greenalch motioned that IW#18.05.03, 348 West Main St Branhaven, to approve the installation as applied and that as the Commission just talked about, this is a new owner who inherited a situation and has been able to get a variance to allow this to be used for parking and that under the circumstances it would seem appropriate that the Commission take care of the problem because of it being a new owner, so motion is to allow the installation as presented; Comm. Ross seconded. Motion passed (4-0-1), Comm. Botta abstained.

IW#18.05.05 – 29 Pent Rd – regrading of filled in area

IW#18.05.06 – 27 Pent Rd – regrading of filled in area

Applications IW#18.05.05 and IW#18.05.06 were addressed together.

Mike Bennet, professional land surveyor and principle with Bennet Silas Associates, stated the majority of the fill is on the owner's property (29 Pent Rd); fill was extended onto the neighbor's property with their permission (27 Pent Rd). Neither party was aware they needed permits.

They are proposing to take the fill and grade it back up to the point where concrete foundation and the existing tree are so that it is a 3:1 slope, and then flatten out the yard. The goal was to not have to truck material out. The only new material that would be brought in is topsoil. The new slope would be seeded with a New England meadow mix; the remaining area would be seeded with a regular grass mix. Realized at the site walk that one tree is dead and another is struggling. They will modify the plan to show that these two trees will be removed as well. Grading work will be worked from the top. Silt fence is proposed at the bottom of the slope. They are proposing some new plantings at the bottom of the slope. There will be some tree trimming of vegetation that overhangs from the other property to give the new plantings opportunity to grow.

Comm. Greenalch mentioned concern of stabilizing slope after topsoil is placed before grass grows.

M. Bennet stated they can use erosion netting up along the slope.

EO Ross instructed to use biodegradable.

Comm. Kraus asked what will protect the brook from any mishaps and rocks rolling down there.

M. Bennet stated there is an existing fence with metal leaning up against it and they will also be installing silt fence.

EO Ross stated that the fence is leaning against the trees; hopefully they don't let material fall down and push against the trees. They really need to get someone experienced to work on this.

Commission discussed complications with installation and maintenance of the silt fence.

M. Bennet stated silt fence will have to be hand dug, another option is to use hay bales along fence.

EO Ross recommended using silt socks.

EO Ross stated that a sturdier plant than spicebush might establish better in the proposed area.

Would like the ability to require more plantings and alter the species if it looks like it needs it.

Comm. Botta motioned to approve IW#18.05.05 29 Pent Rd and IW#18.05.06 27 Pent Rd with the following conditions: the engineer is to oversee the work that is done; there is to be a pre and post meeting with the engineer, the agency and the property owner; the sediment and erosion control plans should be modified to include biodegradable erosion matting placed on the top soil; a plan to monitor and log the status of the sediment and erosion controls; the sediment and erosion controls be monitored daily during the work, the planting plan is to be reviewed and revised as needed by the agency; there will be a minimum of 85% survivability of the plantings, anything short of that shall be replaced, there will be an inspection at the end of year 1 and year 2 which will be submitted to the agency, at completion of the work the engineer needs to certify that the work is done correctly and in compliance with the permit, this shall be submit to the agency; Comm. Ross seconded. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

ENFORCEMENTS:

19 Milo Dr – update on progress of material removal from wetland area

EO Ross stated she has removed most of the plastic. The Styrofoam is lined up along the edge of the patio. She wants to leave the remaining plastic so she can tend to her plants.

Commission determined the plastic has to go and need to confirm that all Styrofoam has been removed from the wetland. Commission applauds her efforts to date but more needs to be done.

Commission determined the one strip of plastic by the planters can remain but the rest needs to be removed.

41 Milo Dr – plantings per settlement have been installed

EO Ross stated that there was a settlement; the disturbed area on the Land Trust property was to be replanted. Passed out photos of the replanted area. Project is all set aside from monitoring of the plantings.

OTHER BUSINESS:

BRIW#17.05.04 – 185 Damascus Rd (Walsh Intermediate School) – consider minor plan revisions, temporary outdoor courts and new stockpile location

Staff passed out the proposed plan and approved plan; on revised plan stockpile location and temporary playground location (basketball courts) were highlighted for easy identification.

Commission discussed proximity of activity to wetlands. The location of the courts is really close to the wetlands, discussed other locations for the courts such as the far side of the track. Commission is ok with the stock pile location, would like to see a revised location for the temporary playground. Commission identified the storm drain to the NW of the stockpile area will need protection and/or monitoring.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVALS ISSUED:

IW#18.05.07 – 7 Euclid St – two new single family homes

EO Ross stated she issued approval but did have them reduce the impacts. Showed the original plan and the plan that she approved. Read conditions of the permit.

IW#18.05.08 – 62 Damascus Rd – residential addition on piers for accessory apartment

EO Ross showed the Commission the plan.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

ADJOURNMENT: Comm. Kraus motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:45; Comm. Greenalch seconded. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Jaymie Frederick, Inland Wetland Assistant