



Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

TOWN HALL * PO BOX 150 * 1019 MAIN ST. * BRANFORD, CT 06405
203-315-0675 * FAX 203-889-3172 * inlandwetlands@branford-ct.gov



Special Meeting Approved Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 2019, 7:00 PM
Canoe Brook Senior Center
11 Cherry Hill Road, Branford, CT

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman Peter Bassermann called the special meeting of Branford's Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency to order at 7:31 P.M.
- Chairman Peter Bassermann welcomed the newest Commissioner, Alternate Chris Traugh
- Comm. Traugh introduced himself, informed the commission that he read the minutes preceding this application, and stated that it's a "Pleasure to serve."
- Chairman Bassermann – "Thank you."

2. ROLL CALL:

- Commissioners Present: Chairman Peter Bassermann, Suzanne Botta, Sandra Kraus, Rick Ross, Chris Traugh
- Commissioners Absent: Jim Sette, Eric Rose, Richard Greenalch, James Goggin
- Staff Present: Inland Wetland Enforcement Officer Diana Ross, David McCarthy

3. APPLICATIONS FOR DECISION:

IW# 19.03.01 | 45-55 Alex Warfield Rd. (The Shore Line Trolley Museum) | Invasive Species Management / Control

- Chairman Peter Bassermann reminded the Commission that the applicant requested a fee reduction and because it's a good environmental project, that the Commission thought it was a good idea to issue a fee reduction. He reiterated that this project resembled that of the Juniper Point project and that its fee reduction could be used as a proxy to determine this fee reduction. However, there was a lack of details present at the last meeting, and the Commission tabled it until the next regular meeting. However, the applicant has indicated that time is of the essence because ground-nesting species might move into the phragmites, and if so, they may not be able to mow them.
- Chairman Peter Bassermann thanked the Commissioners for attending this special meeting to help this positive environmental work move forward. He then asked staff to report their findings on the Juniper Point Association fee reduction.
- EO Ross reported that the Juniper Point Association were only charged the state fee of \$60.
- David McCarthy confirmed that the Commission dropped all Town fees for the Juniper Point Association as to encourage this type of work in the Town of Branford.
- The Commission discussed using the Juniper Point Association's fee reduction to set a precedent and reduce this application's fees similarly.

- Chairman Bassermann noted that in time, the Agency's entire fee structure needs to be reviewed and updated. He then stated that he wants to be careful with this fee reduction because it will set a precedent. "We don't want to have fee reduction applicable to anybody," he said.
- Luke Johnson (of All Habitat Services) mentioned DEEP has a special index of project styles, and that fees are waived for conservation improvement projects for Certificate of Permission Applications.
- Chairman Bassermann asked staff to look into the State's fee waiving structure along with other towns and to make a set of recommendations for the Commission to consider.
- Chairman Bassermann asked staff to draft a fee reduction form to have a more formalized process for future projects.
- EO Ross suggested that it contain words like conservation and improvement.
- Comm. Kraus suggested the fee reduction form indicate whether or not the project will have a "positive environmental impact," and ultimately "better the environment."
- Chairman Bassermann asked the commission if they had an issue using the Juniper Point Association's fee reduction as a proxy for this particular application.
- The Commissioners did not have an issue doing this.
- Comm. Botta made a Motion to use the Juniper Point Association's fee reduction as a precedent for this application (because it's for positive environmental improvement) and that the Commission waives all town fees and only charge State DEEP fees of \$60.
- Comm. Kraus seconded the Motion
- The Commission voted, the Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).
- Comm. Botta made a motion to approve application IW# 19.03.01 | 45-55 Alex Warfield Rd. (The Shore Line Trolley Museum) | Invasive Species Management / Control.
- Comm. Kraus seconded it.
- The Commission voted, Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).
- Chairman Bassermann stated that this application had been approved with a fee reduction.

4. ADJOURNMENT

- Comm. Botta made a Motion to adjourn the special meeting at 7:13 P.M.
- Comm. Kraus seconded it.
- The Commission voted - Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

David E. McCarthy