



Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM

This meeting was held remotely, via ZOOM.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman P. Bassermann

ROLL CALL: Commissioners D. Gocłowski, C. Begemann, M. Ormrod, M. Funaro, M. Papantones (joined at 7:05 pm), Chairman P. Bassermann. Also Present Inland Wetlands Staff J. Frederick and K. Blanchette

1) **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

- a) December 14th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes-Commissioner M. Funaro makes a motion to approve. Commissioner D. Gocłowski seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

2) **APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIPT:**

- a) IW#23.12.02 | 7 Fir Tree Drive | landscaping and wetland buffer enhancements – application was received. No discussion
- b) IW#23.12.03 | 26 North Main Street | remove and replace 3 mobile homes (units 6, 11 and 20)-Applicant Susan Farricelli was present and gave an overview of the project. Plan is to remove 3 abandoned and uninhabitable mobile homes and replace them with new mobile homes. Current building code requires that mobile homes now be placed on a concrete pad. Current plans indicate “Draft” due to the uncertainty of variances needed and availability of mobile home inventory/floor plans at time of purchase. Commission indicated that they would like to see a more definitive site plan for the replacement units, and also the plans for demolition and removal of the current mobile homes on the site.
- c) IW#24.01.01 | 66 Grove St Ext | construction of shed (12’x12’)-IW Agent J. Frederick gave an overview of the project and the site plan. Building a new shed near the wetland. Location is a few feet closer to the wetlands than the old shed that was removed. Commission indicated that they would be okay with having this be an agent approval due to the minimal ground disturbance and scope of the project, however they request that the wetlands location is indicated on the plans.
- d) IW#24.01.02 | 38 Howard Ave | pervious patio and landscape retaining walls and shed-IW Agent J. Frederick indicated that the application was in response to a Notice of Violation that was issued last Spring. There was a request to include documents from the last application into this application as reference materials, which she did add. Engineer J. Pretti gave an overview of the proposed plans for the applicants. Work involves lowering and/or removing portions of the existing retaining wall and patio that is in violation, as well as adding a new retaining wall on the other side of the property. Commission questioned if the configuration of the new wall will have any negative effect of the drainage patterns at the site. Wetland Scientist Matt Davison was present and indicated that he had reviewed the current plans and there

was nothing that indicated it would be problematic. All work proposed is to be located only on the subject property of 38 Howard Avenue.

3) APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:

- a) IW#23.10.04 | 37 Brainerd Road | new home construction – 3 family dwelling-IW Agent J. Frederick gave the overview of the plan and the recommended changes to the plan that were added, including giving the roof leaders their own infiltration systems rather than discharging into the same infiltration system as the driveway. This change will allow the water to be dispersed into multiple areas and not overwhelm one system. Commissioner C. Begemann made a motion to approve the application with the proposed conditions indicated in the staff report dated for 1/11/2024, along with the standard conditions and provisions of all permits. Additionally, due to the scope of the project, the distance from the wetland, and the large natural buffer area between the proposed activity and the wetland area, no bond for plantings will be required. Chairman P. Bassermann seconds the motion. Roll Call:

M. Ormrod-aye
M. Funaro-aye
M. Papantones-aye
D. Goclowksi-aye
C. Begemann-aye
P. Bassermann-aye
Motion carried unanimously

- b) IW#23.12.01 | 25-29 and 31-33 Business Park Drive | removal of debris in drainage swale/watercourse-IW Agent J. Frederick reviewed the conditions in which the commission can consider a fee reduction request and read them into the record. At the request of the commissioners at the last meeting, the fee that would cover the review of the application and the subsequent inspections required was \$200, which the applicant submitted in addition to the \$60 DEEP fee that was already paid. Chairman P. Bassermann makes a motion to accept the fee reduction request. Commissioner D. Goclowksi seconds. Commissioner C. Begemann makes a friendly amendment to indicate the reasons for the granting of the fee request includes that it is a beneficial project in the best interest for the environment as well as the fee being excessive for the scope of work being done. Commissioners P. Bassermann and D. Goclowksi accept the friendly amendment. Commission voted unanimously to grant the fee reduction. Commissioner M. Papantones makes a motion to approve the application for removal of debris in the watercourse with the conditions of approval outlined in the staff report dated 1/11/24 as well as the standard conditions and provisions for the issuance of all permits. Commissioner D. Goclowksi seconded. Roll Call vote:

M. Funaro-aye
M. Ormrod-aye
C Begemann-aye
D Goclowksi-aye
C Begemann-aye
P Bassermann-aye
Motion carried unanimously

4) ENFORCEMENT:

- a) Notice of Violation | 38 Howard Ave | retaining wall & associated activities-tabled pending review of application
- b) Notice of Violation | 142 Chestnut Street | removal of vegetation and earthwork without a permit to conduct regulated activities-IW Agent J. Frederick gave an overview of the history of the site. Historically used as scrap/junk yard. New property owner using site for storage. Appears some areas have been cleared and new fill brought in. Commission was shown aerial photographs that were marked with the additional areas cleared. Nick Burban was present for the property owner. Straw waddles were installed along areas of fill that were in close proximity to the wetlands. Commission felt a site walk was warranted to see the activity on the site. Site walk scheduled for Saturday, January 20 at noon.

5) OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) Draft meeting procedures for review and consideration-IW Agent J. Frederick discussed the document that was drawn up in response to wanting to streamline meetings now that meetings are 2x per month. Commissioner consensus was that it would be very helpful. Commissioner Goclowski made a motion to adopt the meeting procedures presented, move the applications for receipt to the end of the agendas, and limit the amount of time for applications for receipt to 10 minutes. Commissioner M. Papantones seconds. Roll Call:
 - M. Funaro-aye
 - P. Bassermann-aye
 - C. Begemann-aye
 - M. Ormrod-aye
 - D. Goclowski-aye
 - M. Papantones-ayeMotion carries unanimously

6) AGENT APPROVALS:

- a) None

8) CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a) Regulation revision to address 2023 changes to the *Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual* and *Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion & Sediment Control* – discussed timing and process-effective date for 1.3” retention requirement is March 30th. J. Frederick will follow up in March so public hearing can be complete and changes made effective prior to the final phase in September.
- b) CAWS Annual Meeting March 7th, 2024-IW Agent J. Frederick indicated that if anyone was interested in attending to let K. Blanchette know so that she could register.

- 9) **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Bassermann made a motion to adjourn at 9:48 pm. Commissioner Goclowski seconds. Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Katy Blanchette