



## Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 7:00 PM

This meeting was held remotely, via ZOOM.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman P. Bassermann, Commissioners M. Ormrod, D. Gocłowski, M. Papantones, C. Begemann, M. Steinberg, S. Botta, J. Meinsen (not seated). Also present IW Staff J. Frederick and K. Blanchette

#### 1) **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

- a) January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes-Commissioner D. Gocłowski makes a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner M. Steinberg seconds. Roll Call vote:  
P. Bassermann-aye  
M. Ormrod-aye  
C. Begemann-aye  
D. Gocłowski-aye  
M. Papantones-aye  
M. Steinberg-aye  
S. Botta-abstains  
Motion carried. (6-0-1)

#### 2) **APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:**

- a) IW#23.12.02 | 7 Fir Tree Drive | landscaping and wetland buffer enhancements - IW Agent J. Frederick gave an overview of the project. Involves removing an abandoned septic tank within 100 foot of wetland and replanting/invasive controls. There was concern last meeting about one of the proposed plants (Vinca) having invasive tendencies, and the applicant proposed changing to a native cultivar of chokeberry. IW Agent J. Frederick pointed out that the planting of the proposed chokeberry is not near the wetland area, however it is located closer to the house. The Wildlife conservation grass seed mix was reviewed and was acceptable for the area. Commission reviewed the prepared staff report, and questioned why it was recommended to be a 3 year monitoring rather than the standard 5 years that is usually stipulated. IW Agent J. Frederick indicated that this is an improvement to the area, and not mandated plantings. Generally, when people present the plan and proposed the wetland enhancements, rather than being required to make enhancements, they are dedicated to ensuring their success, therefore more likely to take care of the plantings. All of the plants proposed are native and are pollinator friendly per wetland scientist Matt Davison. Commissioner Begemann makes a motion to approve the application with the proposed conditions outlined in the staff report for the meeting dated 1/25/24, along with the standard conditions and general provisions of all permits. Chairman Bassermann seconded. Roll Call Vote:  
M. Ormrod-aye  
C. Begemann-aye  
D. Gocłowski-aye

M. Papantones-aye  
M. Steinberg-aye  
S. Botta-aye  
P. Bassermann-aye

Motion Carried Unanimously.

- b) IW#23.12.03 | 26 North Main Street | remove and replace 3 mobile homes (units 6, 11 and 20)-IW Agent J. Frederick gave an overview of the project and recapped what was discussed at the January 11 meeting. Two concerns brought up by the commissioners at that meeting have been addressed with plan revisions and updated project narrative. New site plans were submitted and are more finite than the “Draft” site plans previously submitted. In response to comments, Unit 11 has been moved closer to the driveway and further away from the watercourse. They have also indicated on the plans the location of the proposed stairs for egress to and from the home. Additionally, the narrative was amended to include the demolition and removal process of the existing trailers on site. Trailers will be dismantled on site prior to be loaded up and removed. Commissioner Begemann makes a motion to approve the application with the conditions outlined in the staff report dated 1/25/24, with the addition of an additional inspection under #1, which will become 1b to state “Inspections shall occur after the removal of the oil tank, decks and trailers”. Item #1b presently in the staff report will become Item 1c. Additionally, all the standard conditions and general provisions of all permits shall apply. Commissioner S. Botta Seconds. Roll Call vote:

M. Ormrod-aye  
C. Begemann-aye  
D. Goclowski-aye  
M. Papantones-aye  
M. Steinberg-aye  
S. Botta-aye  
P. Bassermann-aye

Motion carries unanimously

- c) IW#24.01.02 | 38 Howard Ave | pervious patio and landscape retaining walls and shed received 3 intervenor petitions (Noori/Diaz-Romero, Liscio, Coughlin) and a petition for public hearing with 39 valid signatures (included Branford Addresses). Attorney Marjorie Shansky for the applicant-indicated that the petitions were not sworn or affirmed. Per commission discussion, IW Agent J. Frederick indicated that the petitions will be sent to Town Counsel for review and will be discussed at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Public hearing will open on February 22.

**3) JURISDICTIONAL RULING REQUEST:**

- a) JR#24.01.03 | 92 Limewood Ave | invasives removal-Japanese Knotweed-IW Agent J. Frederick gave an overview of proposed activity which is treating invasive Japanese Knotweed along the edges of the marsh with with a foliar application of herbicides. No pulling/ground disturbance which would cause erosion problems. Additionally, the area is rich with natives that will fill in where the Knotweed was. Commissioner S. Botta made a motion that based upon Regulation 4.2a, the work is specifically targeting knotweed, allowing for growth of natives to restore the area, therefore concluding that it was a non-regulated use. Commissioner M. Steinberg seconded the motion. Roll Call:

D. Goclowski-aye  
C. Begemann-aye  
M. Papantones-aye

M. Steinberg-aye  
S. Botta-aye  
P. Bassermann-aye  
M. Ormrod-aye  
Motion carries unanimously.

4) **ENFORCEMENT:**

- a) Notice of Violation | 38 Howard Ave | retaining wall & associated activities-tabled to February 22, 2024 meeting per request of M. Shansky, attorney for property owner
- b) Notice of Violation | 142 Chestnut Street | removal of vegetation and earthwork without a permit to conduct regulated activities- Commission viewed photos of the site taken by IW Agent J. Frederick. Property owner stated that the soil spread on site was already there, they just moved it around. Site walk set for January 26, 2024 to view site conditions.
- c) Notice of Violation | 87 Hotchkiss Grove Rd | Placement of fill (large volume of leaves) on slope above wetland- IW Agent gave an overview of the issue and provided pictures of the area taken from the adjacent property, including pictures of fill surrounding trees on the slope. Per property owner, there has been a long standing agreement with the neighbor who is a landscaper allowing him to dump leaves on the property. IW Agent indicated potential for leaves/material migrating down the slope to the wetland. Commission determined that the IW Agent can work with the property owner/landscaper to get some of the leaves and soil pulled back from the top of the slope and from around the trees.

5) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- a) Aquatic Pesticide Permit for 214 Alps Road (South Village)-no discussion

6) **APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIPT:**

- a) IW#24.01.04 | 35 Buena Vista | Tear down existing home and rebuild new-application presented for receipt. No discussion

7) **AGENT APPROVALS:**

- a) IW#24.01.01 | 66 Grove St Ext | construction of shed (12'x12')-no discussion

8) **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a) CAWS Annual Meeting March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024-commissioners to notify K. Blanchette by 1/26 at noon if they wish to be registered.

9) **ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner S. Botta makes a motion to adjourn at 9:06 pm. Commissioner D. Gocłowski seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Bradley-Blanchette  
Inland Wetland Associate