



## Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

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### SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission

Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 PM

This meeting was held remotely, via ZOOM.

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#### CALL TO ORDER:

**Chairman Peter Bassermann** called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

#### ROLL CALL:

**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Peter Bassermann, Clarice Begemann, Suzanne Botta, Richard Greenalch, and Eric Rose

**Commissioners Absent:** Sandra Kraus and Steven Sullivan

**Staff Present:** Jaymie Frederick – IW Agent and Abby York – IW Associate

#### APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:

1. IW#21.03.02 | 37 Burban Drive | construction of a new, single family home
  - a. Select peer review from proposals received

**\*Comm. Rose joined the Zoom meeting at 7:04pm\***

- Staff shared that RFP was sent out and only one proposal was received which was from Triton Environmental. Staff said clarification was requested of Triton regarding their use of a soil scientist and shared the budget and overall proposal. Commissioners asked if the proposal covered everything that was requested. Staff said with the additional information provided, it was a complete proposal.

**Comm. Greenalch made a motion to approve Triton Environmental Inc.'s proposal dated April, 26, 2021 and any additional information they provided staff as the peer review for the project at 37 Burban Drive.**

**Comm. Botta seconded the motion and proposed the amendment that the Commission is selecting Triton because their proposal addressed the items the Commission enumerated and that they are qualified to provide the peer review.**

**Comm. Greenalch accepted the modification to the motion.**

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

- The Peer Review process was reviewed by staff and it was noted the Public Hearing will open at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and no public comment should be held until then.
- b. Confirm/clarify reason for holding a public hearing
    - Staff shared that the motion made for the public hearing, stated that there is “impact to the wetlands,” but per the CGS, a meeting shall be held if there is “significant impact to the wetlands”. Staff requested the Commissioner who made the motion clarify what the intent of the motion was and if the Commission agrees with it.

Comm. Botta confirmed the rationale to hold a public hearing to include the term significant impact, as well as what was enumerated for the peer review of both short- and long-term impacts.

- There was a consensus of the Commissioners to accept the statement.
- c. Discussion on content of application to be tabled until Public Hearing is opened, scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - No discussion was had regarding this item. Meeting participants were reminded that public comment on this application would not be heard until that time.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Review draft peer review checklist and provide feedback to staff
  - Commissioners discussed the checklist drafted by staff and it was requested that the two draft checklists be sent out directly by email, which staff confirmed they could do.
  - Wayne Cook (member of the public) said he does not have a problem with the items on the checklist, but he thinks there should be a provision to ensure the peer review process is fair and equal, noting he believes that has not always been the case. Cook requested a full review of the peer review process be completed to keep the process fair and transparent.
2. 75-123 Hosley Road | as of right determination request | filling roadway to create a pad for garden/production purposes
  - Staff shared they were recently informed by the Engineering department that DOT is looking to put material at Vaiuso Farm (75-123 Hosley Ave.), and the owner is looking to create a level pad to provide access to the fields and allow for plant production. Staff met Joe Vaiuso (owner) on site to discuss the proposed project.
  - Staff noted all of the activity proposed will be outside of any wetland area. Staff shared the definition of as of right per the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Regulations.

**Comm. Botta made a motion based on §4.1(a1) that the Jurisdictional Ruling Request for [75-123 Hosley Rd. aka 75-123 Hosley Ave.] be ruled as an as of right activity given that the road construction is directly related to the farming operation and it is occurring outside of the wetlands.**

**Comm. Rose seconded the motion.**

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Comm. Botta made a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Comm. Greenalch seconded the motion.**

**The motion carried. (Y-N-A : 5-0-0) The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Abby York  
Inland Wetlands Associate**