



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



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Thursday, August 10th, 2023 at 7:00 PM

This meeting was held remotely, via ZOOM:

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman P. Bassermann

ROLL CALL: Chairman P. Bassermann, Commissioners M. Ormrod, M. Funaro, D. Gocłowski, M. Papantones

1) **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

- a) July 13th, 2023 Regular meeting minutes-Commissioner D. Gocłowski made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner M. Funaro seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- b) August 8th, 2023 SPECIAL meeting site walk minutes-Commissioner M. Papantones made a motion to approve, Commissioner D. Gocłowski seconded. Motion carried unanimously

2) **APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIPT:**

- a) IW#23.07.02 | 38 Howard Ave | Retaining wall construction and associated activities-application for receipt-Attorney J. Perito and Engineer J. Pretti gave an overview of the project-is an after the fact application with some modifications-planning on lowering and removing the wall in some areas where it encroached over the property boundary. Commission requested that a wetlands report and delineation be included on the plan. Attorney Keith Ainsworth and Robert Sonnichsen represent the interveners from 34 Howard Ave and Sofia Noori of 34 Howard Ave spoke on the matter. Owner of 34 Howard Ave feels that a public hearing is warranted. New intervener petition was received from D. Coughlin which commission recognized and granted intervener status. Commission tabled consideration of public hearing to the September meeting after requested information is submitted.
- b) IW#23.08.01 | 44 Marks Court | canopy (13.5'x14') over patio-IW Agent gave a brief overview of the project. Commission determined the application falls within the scope of Agent Approval. Permit will be handled administratively.
- c) BRIW#23.08.02 | 45-81 Short Rocks Road | construct 30' pole bridge across Pisgah Brook below supply ponds dam and rehab 70' stream bank to prevent further erosion and complete trail improvements-No one was present at the meeting to give a presentation.
- d) IW#23.08.03 | 61 East Industrial Rd | indoor facility for athletic use with associate site improvements-Engineer Jim Pretti from Criscuolo Engineering gave an overview of the project. It is going to be a 21,000 sq. foot athletic (pickleball) facility. Project also includes site work, a detention basin, and retaining walls.

3) **APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:**

- a) BRIW#23.06.02 | 185 Damascus Rd | exterior site improvements to Francis Walsh Intermediate School-commissioners reviewed the staff report by Agent Frederick dated 7/31/2023. Chairman P. Bassermann made a motion to approve the application with the conditions and standard provisions outlined in the staff report dated 7/31/2023. IW Agent J. Frederick pointed out that condition number 6 should be revised per discussion to replace “prior to issuance of Certificate of Occupancy” with “prior to acceptance of completion by the Town”. Chairman Bassermann and Commissioner D. Goclowski accept the friendly amendment. Roll Call Vote:
M. Funaro-aye
M. Ormrod-aye
M. Papantones-aye
D. Goclowski-aye
P. Bassermann-aye
Motion carries unanimously
- b) IW#23.06.05 | 29 (aka 25-29) Business Park Dr | patio (24’x41’) and native plantings along edge of lawn/watercourse-TABLED
- c) IW#23.06.06 | 35-37 Harrison Ave | Email submission 6/29, actual submission 07/06/2023-IW Agent J. Frederick indicated that some commissioners attended the site walk on 8/8/2023.- Chuck Mandel was present for the applicant. Plan is to construct (6) 2-bedroom townhouses on the rear part of the lot along with associated parking and a storm water system. IW Frederick indicated that there is no information relative to perk tests being done to test if the stormwater infiltrator will be able to handle the stormwater. Also wanted to see a cross section of the stormwater system, and how runoff from the driveway/parking lot will be managed/treated. Still awaiting some of the items mentioned in staff report.
- d) IW#23.07.01 | 55 Meadow Wood Rd | New Home Construction with septic, pool and accessory building-TABLED

4) **ENFORCEMENT:**

- a) Notice of Violation | 38 Howard Ave | retaining wall & associated activities- Attorney Jim Perito indicated the property owners are attempting to correct their wrong doing and hope that the application satisfies the commission requirements. They were highly responsive and immediately responded to the violation by having their contractor install silt fences. No further discussion on the violation pending decision regarding the application or changes in site status.
- b) CC#04.03.01 | 573 East Main St | clearing, grading, removal of topsoil within 100’ of wetland-IW Agent J. Frederick indicated that she went to the site to check compliance with the Cease and Correct order. However, due to excessive over growth, she was unable to gain access to the area in question. Given the heavy vegetation on the outskirts of the area in question, coupled with aerial images, she is fairly confident that the area in question is heavily vegetated, and recommends lifting of the order. After commission discussion, they requested that a staff report be done with the reasoning for the Cease and Correct order to be lifted for review at the next meeting, to ensure that there is no issues with precedence.
- c) CC#22.12.01 | 21 Brainerd Road | Construction without permits-commission discussed the lack of compliance. CC was filed on the land records after the last meeting. Commission asked that the homeowner or a representative be present at the

next meeting and that silt fences are installed correctly prior to the next meeting or else fines will commence.

5) **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a) Aquatic pesticide application – 39-49 North Main Street (Fire Headquarters)-no discussion
- b) Aquatic pesticide application – 25 Blackstone Ave (Mirror Lake)-no discussion

6) **ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner D. Goclowski made a motion to adjourn at 9:21 pm. Commissioner M. Papantones seconds. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Blanchette