



Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency
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APPROVED MINUTES

Thursday, November 8, 2018 7:30 PM
Canoe Brook Senior Center
11 Cherry Hill Road, Branford, CT

Present: Peter Bassermann, Richard Greenalch, James Sette, Suzanne Botta
Absent: Jim Goggin, Sandra Kraus, Eric Rose

Chairman Bassermann called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
All Commissioners present are seated.
Chairman Bassermann asked if there were any changes to the agenda and EO Ross replied no.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. October 11th, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes

Chairman Bassermann requested that Michael Di Gioia title be added to the October minutes under the Gould Lane application. EO Ross asked M.Di Gioia what title he preferred and he replied “developer “.

Comm. Botta motioned to approve the minutes of the October 11th regular meeting.
Comm Greenalch seconded. Motion passed (4-0-0).

APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIPT:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. IW#13.06.03 – 47 Gould Lane – open space residential subdivision
 - a. Status of actions taken to remedy sediment and erosion issues

M. Di Gioia (Developer) was present.

EO Ross said this is a large site and there is a large area of disturbance with different sed basins that have been added that were originally not on the plan. This was because the original plan did not have sufficient erosion controls.

M. Di Gioia said his engineer told him they designed the erosion controls for three year storms but the storms we have had lately are not three year storms. After the original erosion controls were installed it became apparent after the third or fourth storm that they were not working.

Milone & McBroom then came up with a revised erosion control plan. Another storm came and Milone & McBroom then added another pond to stop water runoff from going down Gould Lane and ponding at the bottom of the road. After that was done they had no erosion problems until the September 25 flooding rains.

Chairman Bassermann asked when the additional ponds were added.

M. Di Gioia said the first one was in June and the second one in July. He noted that the most recent rain event caused no erosion. It is reflected in the inspection report from Milone & McBroom.

EO Ross said the reports have been submitted weekly and M. Di Gioia has been responding to those.

Chairman Bassermann asked EO Ross in her estimation if the erosion controls are working and she replied—for the most part, considering the size of the site. She said she walked the site one end to the other today but didn't get to the land trust property.

Chairman Bassermann asked if the infrastructure was complete and M. Di Gioia said yes. The road is almost ready to be paved.

EO Ross noted the Land Trust property has been impacted. But said she didn't feel the erosion controls needed to be amended. The silt fences need to be maintained and checked.

M. Di Gioia said in some areas there are three rows of silt fences and hay bales and diversion berm.

The Commission then took a few moments to read the letter from Milone & McBroom which EO Ross said addresses the issues they are discussing and also that a soil scientist will be checking what may have occurred in the land trust property.

Chairman Bassermann asked the minutes to note the letter from Milone & McBroom dated 11-8 was a discussion of action items on the 47 Gould Lane site with recommendations for cleanup and remediation. He then asked for an update on the seeding and matting issues.

EO Ross then distributed photos dated 11-1 and 11-8 to the Commission of areas that are being seeded and matted.

The Commission then discussed this briefly.

M. Di Gioia said the retention basin area has been seeded and matted as well as the steep slopes that abut the Branford Land Trust. He also said anywhere that does not have ongoing construction has been seeded or matted.

Chairman Bassermann asked EO Ross if she felt that the necessary steps for erosion control as well as seeding and matting were in place to avoid future erosion.

EO Ross replied since there is ongoing construction now, some items will have to wait. Some items are in place.

M. Di Gioia said he has an application before the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting on November 15, 2018. He then explained the application saying when the design was drawn up; a detail was missed and because of that, he had to disturb Lot 1. When PZ Commission approves the application, a retaining wall will be installed in Lot 1 and 2 as well as grading and topsoil. Then, there will not be a steep slope heading toward Branford Land Trust. He noted it is a difficult site. He spoke briefly of excavation that is to come.

Chairman Bassermann said there is a lot going on at the site and it's not captured in any single document.

Comm. Botta suggested that M. Di Gioia work with Milone and McBroom or whoever he sees fit to bring a document to the Commission that explains what is happening on each lot. She requested a table that they can clearly see what's going on at the site.

EO Ross requested a plan that shows the additional erosion controls together. Also, that the reports contain more details.

M. Di Gioia agreed to both requests.

Pam Roy- (60 Featherbed Ln) spoke and said she travels down Gould Lane 3 or 4 times daily. There has been mud that's been running off the property into the storm drains. They put a cloth in the storm drain that was washed away. She told EO Ross that Bill Horne has sent her an email and does she share that with the Commission? B. Horne has a list of concerns. He could not attend the meeting so she came in his place. He sent photos as well. She said the entire tract is raw dirt.

The Commission then looked at the photos she had. B. Horne was at the site on 11-7-18.

M. Di Gioia replied that the water running to the land trust property and the photos he saw and the email in question is sediment and erosion from a prior storm. He agreed to have a soil scientist evaluate it and determine how to remedy that. With regards to the mud, he disagrees. He noted the former ZEO is on site after every storm. If there were mud running down the street, he would be under a cease and correct order or a cease and desist.

The town had asked him to silt sack the catch basing and he did. It became an issue with flooding because it could not accept all the water coming down Gould Lane. The fabric didn't wash away, he was asked to remove them. He noted he has done everything that the Town Engineer has asked him to do.

Pam Roy – said she hopes the Commission will get to read Bill Horne's email to EO Ross.

Chairman Bassermann asked if Bill Horne's email could be incorporated in the Milone & McBroom document and EO Ross agreed. She also asked if comments specific to the Land Trust property could be added to the Milone & McBroom document.

Comm. Botta noted they are a relatively new group as a Commission. It would be educational for the group to go back and review the original plan and see where it failed. This is a learning opportunity for the Commission.

The Commission agreed.

2. IW#05.01.05 – 87 Stony Creek Rd (Tinker Woods) – open space subdivision
 - a. Bond return request

EO Ross said there are 4 lots, 2 of them have been developed. There was a permit issued for one lot. Bonds were submitted for the four lots. Some of the bond money was used for signs, posts, and plantings. The prior owner is requesting the return of the unused portion.

The Commission agreed.

EO Ross noted that a motion was not necessary.

3. Regular meeting schedule for 2019

Chairman Bassermann asked the Commission if anyone had an issue with February 14 as a meeting date.

The Commission said it was not a problem.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVALS ISSUED:

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. CACIWC Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference – Saturday 11/17/18

Chairman Bassermann told the Commission to contact EO Ross if anyone was interested in attending.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.