

MEETING MINUTES

Conservation Commission
September 8, 2022 6:30 PM
Waterford Town Hall

Members Present: Dave Lersch, Tali Maidelis, Rich Muckle
Members Absent: Matthew Keatley, Geneva Renegar, Wade Thomas
Alternates Present: Bud Bray, Ivy Plis
Staff Present: Maureen FitzGerald, Environmental Planner
Leanne Santos, Recording Secretary

2022 SEP 14 PM 2:06

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

The meeting was called to order at 6:32p.m. B. Bray was seated for M. Keatley, I. Plis was seated for W. Thomas.

2. APPROVAL OF THE August 25, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Motion made by B. Bray, second by I. Plis to approve the August 25, 2022 meeting minutes.

Vote: 4-0-1(T. Maidelis abstained)

3. APPLICATION REVIEW

C-22-7, 48 Great Neck Road, Condominium Development, Adams Builders LLC, Owner & Applicant, Joe Wren PE (Indigo Land Design, LLC), Agent

J. Wren, (Indigo Land Design, LLC), J. Cowen, (Cowen EcoDesign, LLC), Skip and Gordy Adams were present for the application. J. Wren reviewed with the commission and staff his September 2, 2022 written responses to staff's July 28, 2022 application materials review comments.

J. Wren described the proposed de-watering locations and sediment control measures for the crossing construction. The soil test pits indicated sandy parent material without shallow seasonal groundwater or ledge. The crossing is to be constructed during the dry period. Boulders will be replaced around the footings to protect the channel and maintain the substrate habitat.

J. Wren reviewed the pre-development and post-development drainage areas, noting there will be a decrease in discharge towards the southern wetland but no increase in peak discharge where the stream exits the property. J. Cowen addressed the potential impact to the southern wetland from decreased hydrologic input, noting it may dry up sooner in the year. He stated there was very minor vernal pool activity in the south wetland. To reduce potential impact, he suggested diverting flows from the adjacent swale towards the southern wetland. Staff asked if a cut-sheet of the revision submitted to staff was sufficient for the Commission. The Commission agreed.

Staff recommended the wetland restoration areas and stormwater basin plantings be monitored for a period of 2 years after construction is completed and that a maintenance checklist be prepared for the stormwater basins and bio-filtration areas for use by the property manager.

J. Cowen reviewed other recommendations in his report for restoration of temporary wetland impacts and mitigation through native plantings and control of invasive plant species.

Motion: Motion made by B. Bray, second by D. Lersch to approve the application with conditions discussed.

Vote: 4-1 (T. Maidelis voting against the motion)

C-22-9, 21 Gurley Road, Commercial Office and Warehouse Complex, Stone Ridge R E, LLC, Owner & Applicant, CLA Engineers, Agent

No discussion. The public hearing is scheduled for September 22, 2022.

C-22-10, 184 Boston Post Road, Civic Triangle Pond, Universal Access & Pond Improvements, Town of Waterford, Owner & Applicant, Kent + Frost Landscape Architecture, LLC, Agent
Chad Frost, (Kent + Frost Landscape Architecture, LLC), Brandon Handfield, PE, (Yantic River Consultants) and Richard Snarski, (New England Environmental Services) were present to discuss the application.

C. Frost explained the project purpose is to construct a universally accessible pathway around the pond and complete environmental enhancements of the area. The pond has accumulated organics over the years and the intent is to dredge the accumulated muck and restore the pond. He noted that to improve the wetlands and pond the wetland soils will be disturbed. A lot of the flagged wetland area is mowed lawn. Higher functioning wetlands occur on the eastern side of the pond where a boardwalk is proposed to reduce wetland fill. The boardwalk will be supported by helical piles and mats will be required for construction machinery in wetlands. C. Frost reviewed the areas of temporary and permanent wetland disturbance shown on Sheet L-5.5.

R. Snarski stated he delineated the State and Federal wetland boundary. He reviewed the wetland vegetation in and around the pond. The pond supports a warmwater fishery and spotted turtles and frogs. Pond improvements proposed for the restoration including turtle basking sites on boulders and logs near the boardwalk for education and a waterfowl nesting platform. A pollinator wildflower meadow is proposed south of the pond with plantings in solid patches at a 1-2 ft. height. The wetland vegetation disturbed from the boardwalk installation will regenerate. R. Snarski stated his professional opinion is that this project is an enhancement for the pond and wildlife.

B. Handfield reviewed the contributing drainage areas to the pond. The existing forebay is proposed to be expanded to treat 10% of the water quality volume discharging to the pond. Stormwater will flow through filter berms to a scour pool and over stone weirs before entering the pond to promote aeration. After construction, the water will be recirculated through the forebay with a pump. He reviewed sheet L-2.0 and the proposed erosion and sediment controls for the pond dredging and de-watering. De-watering is proposed using well points that discharge to a de-watering basin at the southern end of the pond. The dredged organic materials will be staged within the pond for initial decanting then upgradient of the pond for secondary de-watering. Dredged underlying soil will be de-watered at the south end of the pond.

The Commission discussed if the application involves significant wetland impact or a public hearing in the public interest should be held in accordance with Section 9.1 of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.

Motion: Motion made by D. Lersch, second by B. Bray per section 9.1 of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations to conduct a public hearing based on public interest.

Vote: 5-0

C. Frost ask the Commission to clarify that hearing is based on public interest and not due to a finding of significant impact. Commissioners clarified the hearing is being held in the interest of the public. The Commission reviewed available dates for the hearing and possibly holding a special meeting for the hearing.

Motion: Motion made by T. Maidelis, second by B. Bray to schedule the public hearing date on October 6, 2022.

Vote: 5-0

4. NEW APPLICATIONS

C-22-11, 10 Donna Street, Channel lining/Embankment Stabilization, Rashmi Srestha, Owner & Applicant.

Staff reviewed the requested regulated activities in the channel and noted that during the significant rainfall earlier in the week, there was no water in the channel. Staff and commission members reviewed the plan submitted.

Motion: Motion made by T. Maidelis, second by I. Plis to have staff prepare a draft permit for the proposed activity.

Vote: 5-0

5. VIOLATIONS

1122, 1124 Hartford Turnpike: Unauthorized fill, grading & deposition of materials adjacent to inland wetlands. Notice of Violation issued May 26, 2022.

Staff gave update of the restoration.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

19 Nichols Lane, Proposed section 4.1.d yard maintenance, cut and remove overgrowth to maintain channel flow.

Motion: Motion made by T. Maidelis, second by B. Bray that the activity meets the criteria for maintenance under Section 4.1.d of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.

Vote: 5-0

7. CORRESPONDENCE – none received

8. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion: Motion made by D. Lersch, second by I. Plis to approve payment of The Day bill in the amount of \$100.65.

Vote: 5-0

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion to adjourn made by D. Lersch, second by B. Bray to adjourn at 8:43 pm.

Vote: 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,



Leanne Santos
Recording Secretary