

Town of Thompson
Inland Wetlands Commission
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Cheryl T. Darling, J.D.
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014, 7:00 PM
MERRILL SENEY COMMUNITY ROOM- TOWN HALL

A) Call to Order & Roll Call.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Morano at 7:03 PM.

Roll Call: Commissioner and Vice Chair Steven Baranow, Commissioner and Chairperson Fran Morano, Commissioner H. Charles Obert, Commissioner and Treasurer Howard Peck, Commissioner Ron Tillen, Wetlands Agent, Marla Butts and Recording Secretary, Patricia Lacasse.

Absent: Commissioner Donald Hoenig II.

Others Present: Jason Lavallee.

B) Action on Minutes of Previous Meetings.

Motion to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2014, meeting, as presented, made by Commissioner Obert. Seconded by Commissioner Tillen. Motion passed unanimously.

C) Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items – None.

D) Pending Applications:

a) Permits:

- 1) Application #IWA14001, Jason Lavallee, 83 Rich Rd., (Assessor's reference 116/27/12Q), to (1) upgrade existing wetland crossing by replacing existing broken and clogged pipe with new 15 inch plastic culvert, raising driveway by 2 feet and widening driveway by 5 feet and (2) construction of a 50' by 80' garage and associated grading within upland review area. – Marla Butts stated that the site walk was cancelled for the last 2 months due to snow cover. In light of this, she informed the Commission that they can grant a permit without a site walk or request an extension on the application. She also presented MapGeo images of the property and Jason Lavallee was present for comment and to answer any questions. He stated that he is looking to just have the driveway and the culvert replaced without the garage for now since the culvert is failing and needs to be done right away and he will address the garage at a later time. Ms. Butts stated that the driveway area is fairly flat and would not raise the grade that much. Commissioner Obert asked about the length of the pipe and what size the total area to be disturbed is in the wetlands. Mr. Lavallee stated that the length of the pipe would be 20 feet and would be cut down to about 18 feet. Also, the wetland area to be filled would be 100 feet by 6 feet or 600 square feet. Steve Baranow asked how wet or dry the wetland area actually is and Mr. Lavallee stated that they are wet this time of year but get pretty dry in the

summer. Also to put in a new culvert would help to better drain the area back into the wetlands. Mr. Obert asked if he would put in place sedimentation and erosion controls until the area is stabilized. Ms. Butts stated that this is always a condition of every permit.

Motion to approve amended permit to upgrade existing wetland crossing by replacing broken pipe and raising driveway by 1 ½ feet and widening driveway by 5 feet made by Commissioner Obert. Seconded by Commissioner Tillen. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Wetlands Agent Approvals:

- 1) Application #WAA14003, Robert Pechie, 512 Brandy Hill Rd., (Assessor's reference 143/16/35), for the construction of a 14' x 28' cabin to replace a pre-existing structure at the same location within the upland review area for Quaddick Reservoir. – On February 18, 2014, Ms. Butts received and approved this application. Legal notice was published on February 18, 2014 and the appeal deadline is March 15, 2014

c) Declaratory Rulings – None.

E) New Applications Pending Receipt Date (includes those received after agenda publication) – None.

F) Permits Extensions/Changes – None.

G) Active Violations & Pending Enforcement Actions:

- a) #VIOL12023 issued August 7, 2012, to Charles Paquette, Terrace Dr., (Assessor's reference 103/40/6N). – Ms. Butts stated that there is a court hearing on this violation scheduled for April 10, 2014, unless there is an agreement before that time.
- b) #VIOL14002 issued January 28, 2014, to Norman Rudzinski, 0 Labby Rd., (Assessor's reference 95/27/17). - Marla Butts stated that Mr. Rudzinski has until April 1, 2014, to submit an application.

H) Other Business:

a) Old Business – None.

b) New Business – Permit application for the use of pesticides in state waters from Lycott Environmental, Inc. for Vincent's Pond – Ms. Butts stated that the CT DEEP keeps record of what is applied for pesticide control and how much is applied. The DEEP will determine any current applications based on past usage of the pesticides.

I) Reports:

a) Budget & Expenditures: Wetlands Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 and 2014 (Results of Fiscal Reporting July 2013 through February 2014). Commissioner Peck stated that the Commission used 62.6% overall of its budget.

b) Wetlands Agent Report - Ms. Butts read her written report.

Updates:

- Grading behind Knights of Columbus – Ms. Butts stated that she will have to wait until the snow cover is gone to verify what action, if any, has been taken to address this problem.
- Board of Selectmen (BOS) Meeting on Budget Requests – Ms. Butts stated that she has not, as of yet, met with the BOS regarding the budget. She was advised by Mike Martin, however, that the BOS have cut the office supplies budget by 10% across the board.
- Interstate Reliability Project (DEEP Permit WQC-201205697) – On February 26, 2014, CL&P held a pre-construction meeting in the Merrill Sene Community Room in the town hall for any interested citizens. Ms. Butts stated that she was not able to attend but Carolyn Werge did attend and provided a copy of the handouts that were provided during the briefing. She stated that the tree clearing in Thompson is not to begin until September of 2014. She also stated that she has received the first two weekly construction update emails for the project for the weeks of March 3 and March 10, 2014. According to these reports some preparation work is to begin in Chaplin, Killingly, Lebanon, Mansfield and Putnam but no work is planned for Thompson. She advised the Commission to visit websites www.NEEWSprojects.com or www.transmission-nu.com/residential/projects/IRP/ConstructionUpdates.asp. She will also forward by email the report that she receives each Monday from CL&P.
- Reorganization of Application/Permit Files – Ms. Butts stated that with Patty leaving in April 2014, she will be attempting to complete the reorganization of the files that she began. Two of the 4 drawers have been processed completely. One drawer remains untouched and several boxes of files needing special attention have been left for review. Over the next month, she will be focusing on processing these files and getting them cataloged in the excel database. Once this process is complete, she will review what documents should be destroyed and what documents should be maintained either in the wetlands office files or the building office files.

Miscellaneous:

- Reappointment of Commissioners Morano and Baranow – By email March 4, 2014, Ms. Butts advised the BOS that the appointments for Commissioners Morano and Baranow will expire on March 15, 2014, and they should take appropriate action to ensure the continued operation of the Inland Wetlands Commission.
 - Comments on Ordinance Review Committee Special Meeting of January 23, 2014 – Ms. Butts referenced the Ordinance Review Committee special meeting minutes for January 23, 2014. Of concern is a reference to “Appointed Municipal Officials”. Ms. Butts stated that the Committee is of the opinion that the wetlands officer is an appointed position that requires the reappointment following an election. She further stated that she went through a hiring procedure and is an employee of the Town of Thompson. She stated to the Commission that if they are in concurrence with her position, she requested on how they would like this to be addressed. Chair Morano stated that she will address this with the BOS directly.
 - Computer and Network Issues – Ms. Butts stated that she is unaware of any actions taken to resolve or address the computer and network issues that were referenced in last month’s report. No renewal/reactivation of the antivirus program, the wetlands office computer network still disconnects and the upgrading of Microsoft Office 2003 has still not happened.
- Purchase Requisitions Status** – Paid 2 invoices to Stonebridge Press for legal notices and 1 invoice to WB Mason for office supplies.

J) Correspondence:

- a) DEEP Wetland's Management Section produced a third training DVD for Connecticut's municipal inland wetlands agencies. Two copies of the DVD provided free of charge. The DVD is also accessible on both the WMS's web page www.ct.gov/inlandwetlands and on the DEEP's YouTube channel www.youtube.com/CTDEEPvideos.

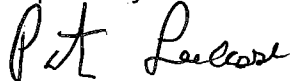
K) Signing of Mylars – None.

- L) Comments by Commission. – Commissioner Obert stated that the Bafflin Audubon Sanctuary in Pomfret will be having 2 workshops; one on April 4, 2014, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and one on April 5, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on vernal pools. The fee is \$15.00 for nonmembers and \$10.00 for members. Also in Massachusetts there is a program for ecology restoration by removing dams not serving a viable function in the community. This would open up areas for fish passage and increase the use of waterways for canoes and kayaks. Ms. Butts stated that they should determine if the sedimentation at the bottom of these dams have any contamination before the sediment is washed out into any important wetlands and watercourses. Lastly, Commissioner Tillen expressed his regret upon hearing of the resignation of Patricia Lacasse as the IWC recording secretary.

M) Adjournment.

Chair Morano called to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM. Motion made by Commissioner Obert to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Tillen. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted



Patricia Lacasse
Recording Secretary