



Town of Thompson
Inland Wetlands Commission
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Cheryl T. Huntington
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 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 Chair Fran Morano, Commissioner and Treasurer Howard Peck, Commissioner Ron Tillen, Wetlands Agent, Marla Butts and Recording Secretary, Patricia Lacasse.

Absent: Commissioner Donald Hoenig II and Commissioner H. Charles Obert.

B) Action on Minutes of Previous Meetings.

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

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

D) Pending Applications:

a) Permits – None.

b) Wetlands Agent Approvals – None.

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).

Motion made by Commissioner Baranow that the Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission accept the draft language for a stipulated court judgment on pending litigation involving inland wetlands and watercourses violations at 0 Terrace Drive in Thompson, such property being identified on the Tax Assessor's Map 103, Block 40, Lot 6N, such draft stipulation having been forwarded via email from the office of Attorney St. Onge to Thompson Wetlands Agent, Marla Butts on April 3, 2014, and further direct Ms. Butts to notify Attorney St. Onge to proceed but that any substantive language change be reviewed and approved by this Commission

in advance to the stipulation being presented to court with the determination if a change is substantive to be made by consultation between Attorney St. Onge, Commission Chair Morano and Ms. Butts. Seconded by Commission Tillen. Motion passed unanimously.

- b) #VIOL14002 issued January 28, 2014, to Norman Rudzinski, 0 Labby Rd., (Assessor's reference 95/27/17). – Ms. Butts stated that Norman Rudzinski stopped by her office today and delivered a letter requesting a one month extension due to inclement weather.

Motion made by Chair Morano to grant an extension until next month's meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Peck. Motion passed unanimously.

H) Other Business:

- a) Old Business – None.
b) New Business – None.

I) Reports:

- a) Budget & Expenditures: Wetlands Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 and 2014 (Results of Fiscal Reporting July 2013 through March 2014). Commissioner Peck stated that the Commission used 69.4% overall of its budget.

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

Updates:

●Grading behind Knights of Columbus – On March 16, 2014, Ms. Butts and Chair Morano visited the site but there was too much snow on the ground to see if adequate mulching had been done.

●Reorganization of Application/Permit Files – Patty Lacasse has agreed to do the data entry into Excel, generate file labels and ownership cards after Ms. Butts sends the information to her electronically. Once she completes this task, we will pay her \$2.00 per file entered.

Building Permits Reviewed - There were 5 building permits reviewed – (1) 83 Ridge Rd. (2) Greenacres Ln. (3) Quinebaug Rd. (4) 20 Labonte Rd. (5) 48 Quinebaug Rd.

Inspections/Follow-Up Actions – On March 16, 2014, Ms. Butts and Chair Morano visited 10 different properties around town and Ms. Butts is still in the process of documenting the site visits.

Miscellaneous:

●Anticipated Boy Scout Projects – Today Recreation Director, Renee Waldron advised Ms. Butts that several Boy Scouts are planning projects that would involve providing benches and cutting several trees blocking a walking trail in the rear of the Gladys Green/Pineview Court Housing Project and possible resurfacing of a portion of a trail with stone dust. Absent any details, Ms. Butts suggested that the Boy Scouts submit a request for declaratory ruling as this work would likely qualify as a non-regulated use. Ms. Butts will review any requests submitted with Chair Morano to determine if proposals are regulated and/or acceptable as a non-regulated use.

●Reappointment of Commissioners Morano and Baranow – Commissioners Morano and Baranow have been reappointed to March 15, 2019.

●Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance - At the end of October, Mary Ann Chinatti received and forwarded correspondence she received from Diane Ifkovic, DEEP's state NFIP Coordinator to Ms. Butts containing the edits that would be required to Thompson's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. This review was performed at Thompson's request because there was an interest to have the Inland Wetlands Commission as opposed to the Conservation Commission the responsible entity for considering variance to the ordinance. Should Thompson decide to make such a change it would also have to include significant changes to the ordinance that primarily relates to base flood elevation (BFE) and can significantly increase the town and the property owner's responsibility, particularly if the BFE is not identified on the FEMA map. A property owner would need to know if they were in a flood prone area. Recently, Ms. Butts found out that while some of the FEMA maps in Connecticut have been digitized, Windham County towns have not, nor are there any plans to do so in the future. If Thompson's FEMA maps had been digitized by FEMA, then that layer could have been added to MapGeo, the town's web-based application for property parcel layout and all parties concerned would have known if a property needs to comply with the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. However, in the absence of digitized mapping it will be more difficult to determine who is in compliance. If Thompson chooses not to modify its Flood Prevention Damage Ordinance, then it is not required to make the other changes referenced in Ms. Ifkovic's correspondence. Given the infrequency of proposals requiring approval under the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and the even less likely chance for a requested variance, the burden on the Conservation Commission is close to non-existent. Ms. Butts has advised Mary Ann Chinatti that in her opinion the town should abandon making any changes to the ordinance until it is mandated to do so by FEMA. Ms. Chinatti concurs and has advised Ms. Butts to inform the Board of Selectmen of her position.

Noted for the record, Commissioner Obert entered the meeting room at 7:20 PM.

●Computer and Network Issues – In accordance to last month's discussion, Ms. Butts drafted a letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding the ongoing computer and network issues. Ms. Butts read the letter for the Commission's approval.

Motion made by Commissioner Obert to have Agent Butts clean up the draft for Chair Morano's signature by requesting the matter be placed on the Board of Selectmen meeting agenda to discuss and commit the resources needed to reach a resolution thereby preventing the town's public records from being corrupted and damaged. Seconded by Commissioner Tillen. Motion passed unanimously.

Purchase Requisitions Status – Paid 2 invoices to WB Mason for office supplies.

J) Correspondence:

- a) Two Page Courtesy Client Update from Attorney Steven E. Byrne Regarding Burden of Proof and Evidence Requirements Received March 24, 2014.

- K) Signing of Mylars – None.
- L) Comments by Commission – None.
- M) Adjournment.

Chair Morano called to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM. Motion made by Commissioner Obert to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Peck. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted



Patricia Lacasse
Recording Secretary