

**New Hartford Inland Wetlands Commission
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 7:00 PM
New Hartford Town Hall
530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Chairman James Hall, Anne Hall, Lou Moscaritolo, Nancy Schroeder Perez, Gerald Tabaka, and Steve Unger; Inland Wetlands Officer Ruth Mulcahy.

ABSENT: None.

Chairman James Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The meeting was recorded digitally and copies are available through Town Hall.

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

2. PENDING APPLICATIONS:

A. Dave Scaiscia/Applicant Phyllis W. Marcantonio, Trustee/Owner – Map 013 – Block 004 – Lot 19-6 – 279 East – 279 East Cotton Hill Road – Driveway Modification for an Existing Shared Driveway in an Upland Review Area.

Ms. Mulcahy reported that the applicant had requested a continuance in this matter. She noted that she consulted with the applicant's engineer Dave Whitney and noted that he had indicated that he has had no contact with the applicant past the initial discussions. It was noted that no new additional information had been received from the applicant and that the applicant had been advised that the Commission would likely deny due to the application being incomplete.

MOTION: Ms. Schroeder Perez, Ms. Hall second, to deny without prejudice the application of Dave Scaiscia/Applicant Phyllis W. Marcantonio, Trustee/Owner – Map 013 – Block 004 – Lot 19-6 – 279 East – 279 East Cotton Hill Road – Driveway Modification for an Existing Shared Driveway in an Upland Review Area; unanimously approved.

3. NEW APPLICATIONS:

A. Tyler J. Fiori/Owner – Map 017 – Block 215 – Lot 004 – 332 Niles Road – Deck Construction.

Mr. Hall explained that this application involved reviewing four sonotubes for deck construction in an upland review area that was related to a real estate closing during a time in which Ms. Mulcahy was called out of town for a funeral. He noted that he had given a go-ahead in the form of an agent approval.

MOTION: Ms. Hall, Ms. Schroeder Perez second, to accept an agent determination in the matter of Tyler J. Fiori/Owner – Map 017 – Block 215 – Lot 004 – 332 Niles Road – Deck Construction; unanimously approved.

B. Matthew T. Sellitto/Applicant – Loreen Digiovanni Sellitto/ Owner – Map 015 - Block 028 – Lot 019 – 145 Maple Hollow Road – Replace Shed.

Ms. Mulcahy explained that the applicant is proposing to replace an old 10'x11' shed with a new shed, with the only activity to be the dismantling of the old shed.

MOTION: Ms. Schroeder Perez, Mr. Unger second, to refer for an agent determination the application of Matthew T. Sellitto/Applicant – Loreen Digiovanni Sellitto/ Owner – Map 015 - Block 028 – Lot 019 – 145 Maple Hollow Road – Replace Shed; unanimously approved.

C. Raymond F. Lamont Sr./Owner – Map 028 – Block 015 – Lot 050 – 49 Stedman Road – Thin out Mature Softwood Forest, Declaratory Ruling for Timber Harvesting.

Certified Forester Brian Sheehan appeared before the Commission regarding this application. Mr. Sheehan reported that the owners of this property have owned it since the early 1960s and noted that the last time it was harvested was thirty years ago, during the 1980s. Mr. Sheehan explained that the light harvest will only involve twenty of the forty acres and planned to cross existing culverts already onsite. He noted that his client is seeking to have the work done right away.

MOTION: Ms. Schroeder Perez, Mr. Moscaritolo second, to determine that the activities described in the matter of Raymond F. Lamont Sr./Owner – Map 028 – Block 015 – Lot 050 – 49 Stedman Road – Thin out Mature Softwood Forest represent a permitted use as of right under Section 4.1A of the Town of New Hartford Inland Wetlands Regulations; unanimously approved.

D. Ski Sundown/Owner – Robert Switzgable/Applicant – Map 45- Block 136 – Lots 02A, 003 & 3-1-126 Ratlum Road and Associated Parcels – Water Line Extension Involving Ratlum Road, Reservoir Road & Farmington River Turnpike.

Robert Switzgable, accompanied by George Andrews, PE, of Loureiro Associates appeared before the Commission regarding this application. Ms. Hall noted for the record that she is a contractor employed by the MDC but did not foresee that having an impact on this application. Mr. Hall noted that he is a former employee of the engineering firm retained by the applicant but did not foresee that having an impact on this application.

Mr. Switzgable described the impetus behind this proposal, explaining the challenges his ski resort faces during times of draught.

Mr. Andrews reviewed the background of the project, the proposed activities that the project will include as well as the wetlands areas adjacent to the project. Mr. Andrews also reviewed the alternatives that were considered. He noted that the applicant has submitted a plan set, a drainage report, a copy of the application, as well as a copy of the diversion permit to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for authorization to divert the water from the MDC aqueduct to service this area.

Mr. Andrews noted that the proposal to increase the capacity involves a linear project beginning at an existing tap at the intersection at Farmington River Turnpike and Reservoir Road. He noted that the tap will provide for a maximum draw of five million gallons a day. He then reviewed the areas where the pipe will be laid on the surface and where it will be buried. Mr. Andrews also reviewed the location of the three drain points for the system.

Mr. Andrews reviewed the location of the wetlands as delineated by Wetlands Scientist Jim McManus. These include a small 575 square-foot broad-leaf, forested wetland with low to moderate function near the intersection of Farmington River Turnpike and Reservoir Road located near the proposed pump house. Another wetland complex, identified as a broad-leaf, forested and shrubby wetlands also with low to moderate function, located near the high point of Ratlum Road. Mr. Andrews explained that the closest point to proposed activity is that of the burying of the pipe on the opposite side of road. Finally, he reviewed the wetlands along the edge of Ski Sundown's parking lot. This area had the highest wetlands functioning as a wooded swamp, according to Mr. Andrews. It was noted that the proposed activity is about 180' from this wetland.

Mr. Andrews also reviewed the plans for crossing Ratlum Brook.

He noted that the erosion and sediment controls would be left to the contractor in terms of whether to use hay bales or silt socks.

Mr. Andrews reviewed alternatives to this proposal that were considered and discussed reasons why they were dismissed.

First Selectman Dan Jerram reported that the Board of Selectmen had endorsed the project to DEEP and that they like the idea and concept of this proposal.

Ms. Hall questioned both the short-term and long-term impacts of the proposed draining into the wetlands. Mr. Andrews noted that the volumes have been reviewed and that there had been some consideration given in automating the system. He noted that a throttle valve has been included so that Mr. Switzgable can review the discharge to assure that the riprap is stabilized and can scale down the volume if erosion is evident.

It was noted that the proposal includes 5,000 linear feet of piping.

MOTION: Ms. Schroeder Perez, Ms. Hall second, to accept the application in the matter of Ski Sundown/Owner – Robert Switzgable/Applicant – Map 45- Block 136 – Lots 02A, 003 & 3-1- 126 Ratlum Road and Associated Parcels – Water Line Extension Involving Ratlum Road, Reservoir Road & Farmington River Turnpike, deeming the proposed activity as being in the public interest and scheduling a public hearing on February 7, 2017; unanimously approved.

4. MEETING MINUTES – November 1, 2017:

MOTION: Ms. Hall, Ms. Schroeder Perez second, to approve the November 1, 2017 Minutes as amended; unanimously approved.

5. INLAND WETLANDS OFFICER'S ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Ms. Mulcahy reported that the public hearing fees have not yet been received for the publishing of the legal ad in the newspaper from the applicant with respect to 210 Maple Hollow Road, continued from the November, 2017 meeting. It was noted that the public hearing will not occur prior to these being received.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

A. Discussion of Agent Determination issued to Tyler Fiori – 332 Niles Road on December 21, 2017.

This application was discussed earlier during the review of new applications.

B. Approval of Meeting Schedule for 2018.

The Commission agreed to the following regular meeting schedule:

- February 7, 2018
- March 7, 2018
- April 4, 2018
- May 2, 2018
- June 6, 2018
- August 1, 2018
- September 5, 2018
- October 3, 2018
- November 7, 2018
- December 5, 2018

MOTION: Ms. Schroeder Perez, Ms. Hall second, to accept the dates indicated in the 2018 Regular Meeting Schedule as presented; unanimously approved.

MOTION: Ms. Hall, Mr. Moscaritolo second, to adjourn at 8:08PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk