

**New Hartford Inland Wetlands Commission
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Via Online Platform ZOOM**

PRESENT: Chairman James Hall, Anne Hall, Karl Hermonat, Nancy Schroeder Perez, Wayne Ryznar, Gerald Tabaka, Steve Unger, and Wetlands Agent Mike Lucas.

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. Adam T. Clymer – Map 034 – Block 012 – Lot 6-04 0 30 Garrett Ridge Court – Dwelling.

Adam Clymer, accompanied by his contractor, appeared before the Commission regarding this application. Mr. Clymer shared his site plan, noting that the lot was a narrow one. He explained that the design was planned so that no structure was within the review area. The driveway is within the review area, but few trees will need to be cut. Mr. Clymer explained that access to the back of the home will be necessary.

Ms. Hall shared her observation that the septic system will be accessible with the current design, too. Questioning the runoff from the driveway, Ms. Hall questioned what the surface of the driveway would be. Mr. Clymer indicated that it would be stone. Mr. Hall questioned where the runoff would likely flow. The contractor accompanying Mr. Clymer indicated it would likely flow in the same direction of the footing drains as depicted on the plan.

Mr. Ryznar opined the final design was likely the best option and would cause the least invasion to the wetlands.

MOTION: Ms. Schroeder Perez, Mr. Unger second, to approve the application in the matter of Adam T. Clymer – Map 034 – Block 012 – Lot 6-04 0 30 Garrett Ridge Court – Dwelling, subject to the standard conditions; unanimously approved.

3. NEW APPLICATIONS:

A. Farmington River Watershed Association – Map 043 – Block 137 – Lot 10A - Declaratory Ruling - Invasive Species Management.

Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) President Michael Feldman, accompanied by FRWA Land Management Committee Chairman Susan Barney, appeared before the Commission regarding this application. Mr. Feldman reported a recent acquisition of an 11-acre parcel of land that was bequeathed to them with the covenant that a children's fishing derby be held in the small pond. He explained that the FRWA was seeking approval to remove some invasive species near the pond. Ms. Barney noted that the perimeter of the pond and the area between the pond and the Farmington River would be the area in which work would be undertaken to rid Japanese knotweed and bittersweet. She explained that as much as possible would be removed and the group would attempt to continue to manage this with a selective application of an herbicide, such as Glyphosate in Roundup. Ms. Barney indicated that a professional landscape company would likely be enlisted and then followed up with trained volunteers.

Ms. Hall questioned whether there were any plans to remove stumps or anything that could cause erosion. Ms. Barney noted that a black locust tree may be cut but confirmed that the stump would not be removed.

Mr. Ryznar shared concerns with the use of the chemical compound Glysofate, reporting that it has the same active ingredient as Agent Orange. He recalled propane torches being used for the removal of barberry and indicated that he had no concerns with that method. Ms. Schroeder Perez concurred. Mr. Hall noted that the Brush-B-Gon is strictly a paint to be used on the stump of the individual tree or bush. He questioned whether there was spraying planned. Ms. Barney indicated that there would be no spraying. She noted that the application was limited to the areas that are cut.

Ms. Barney circled back to the inquiry posed by Ms. Hall relative to digging out the roots of the invasives and questioned whether it would be permissible. She explained that she was referring to digging out roots according to the recommendations of professionals. Ms. Barney explained how the group may pile the invasives, cover them in plastic, and allow the heat from the sun so they decompose. Ms. Hall explained that this Commission did not have authority to regulate individuals or groups from herbicide applications. She opined that the application of a treatment on the invasives in an effort to restore more native riverbanks outweighs the brief impact of the herbicide. Mr. Feldman noted that consultation is being sought from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

A request was made of the chairman to receive testimony from the public. Mr. Hall agreed.

Denton Butler, of 465 Town Hill Road, shared his experience as the chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), with attempts at the plant to rid the area of invasives. He suggested that the FRWA retain a botanist rather than a biologist for advice on this matter.

Mr. Unger requested additional information regarding how the work will be undertaken. Ms. Barney explained that the FRWA may be hiring a company such as All Habitat Services, LLC, and consult with DEEP, CT Invasive Plant Working Group, and Invasive Plant Counsel of Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor. She indicated that the project is too large for the group of volunteers so much would be relied upon with the contracted company who will be licensed and experienced. Ms. Barney noted that advice will be sought from several levels of government.

MOTION: Mr. Hall, Mr. Tabaka second, to approve the request for a declaratory ruling to remove and control the invasive species by the Farmington River Watershed Association at the property located at Assessors Map 043, Block 137, Lot 10A, using the best means and best technology that they can determine under the supervision of DEEP and licensed professionals; unanimously approved.

B. Michael Sanders & Michelle Sheehan-Sanders – Map 09A – Block 110- Lot 019 – 67 Marstan Trails – Septic System Repair.

Jarrold Carroll appeared before the Commission regarding this application. Mr. Carroll explained that his clients purchased this property last year and soon after, the system began to fail occasionally. Mr. Carroll indicated the system was located behind the house, explaining that there was a well between the home and the lake. Mr. Hall questioned whether it was being moved on the site. Mr. Carroll indicated that it was being removed and replaced in the same location.

It was noted that the proposal was more of a replacement than it was a repair.

MOTION: Ms. Schroeder Perez, Ms. Hall second, to accept the application in the matter of Michael Sanders & Michelle Sheehan-Sanders – Map 09A – Block 110- Lot 019 – 67 Marstan Trails – Septic System Repair, and to schedule a public hearing for April 7, 2021; unanimously approved.

C. Theresa Klim – Map 031 – Block 031 – Lot 015 – 85 Steele Road – Pond Maintenance.

Jarrold Carroll appeared before the Commission regarding this application. Mr. Carroll explained that the man-made dam has a drain in it which is silted over which makes it very difficult to maintain the water level. He reported his client has cleaned this pond out in the past. Mr. Carroll explained the dredging would only be three to four feet and put up over the bank as it had been done before. Ms. Schroeder Perez questioned how the work would be undertaken. Mr. Carroll indicated that two excavators would dredge it and put the silt over the bank allowing the property owner to drain it after the water is drawn down seasonally.

Ms. Hall questioned what watercourse fed the pond. Mr. Carroll explained that a small stream comes down from Burdick Road that flows seasonally. Mr. Hall questioned whether there were maps available. Mr. Lucas shared a google aerial map of the area.

Ms. Hall summarized that more information should be provided regarding the watercourse flowing into the pond, the location of the outlet for it, and how the sediment being removed from the pond is being handled. Mr. Lucas suggested a couple photographs from the site would be beneficial.

MOTION: Ms. Schroeder Perez, Ms. Hall second, finding the proposed activity as not significant, to accept the application in the matter of Theresa Klim – Map 031 – Block 031 – Lot 015 – 85 Steele Road – Pond Maintenance, on the condition that a better map is provided; unanimously approved.

D. Town of New Hartford – Map 014 – Lot(s) – Several – Bridge # 05077 – Cedar Lane over Bakerville Brook – Rehabilitation of Existing Bridge.

First Selectman Dan Jerram explained that the Cedar Lane bridge over Bakerville Brook was documented by the State of Connecticut during their bridge inspections as one that is in need of repair. He noted that the footing of the southerly abutment is 75% exposed due to scour.

Professional Engineer David Battista reviewed the proposed designs for the repair work. He explained that the bridge is located approximately 200' north of the blinking light at the intersection of Route 202 and Cedar Lane. Mr. Battista shared an existing conditions plan with the Commission. Reviewing the stream flow of the channel, Mr. Battista explained how it has attacked the streamlines near the bridge abutment that have allowed the fine materials to be scoured out that were placed within the abutments, exposing the footings.

Mr. Battista reviewed the 2000 as-built of the bridge reflecting riprap that had been added to the abutment during construction as a field change.

Additionally, Mr. Battista reviewed the necessary work with the pavement on the bridge, noting that there are reflection cracks coming up from individual deck beams that form the bridge deck. He explained the plan to remedy that by the removal of the pavement from the bridge deck, scraping off the membrane, waterproofing, constructing the new membrane, waterproofing, and then finally, repaving of the deck.

Mr. Battista noted that the scour hole will be filled in with riprap, an intermediate size of 18" diameter stones. He noted that the plans call for rounded stones rather than fractured rocks. Mr. Battista explained that the rounded stones are typically more fish-friendly and are requested by DEEP Fisheries Division.

Mr. Battista provided details on the necessary construction access. He noted that a coffer dam will be necessary in order to isolate the work area and not cause turbidity.

The restoration of the private property to be utilized for the construction access and the erosion control that will be utilized was included in the plans provided. The bridge will be shut down for a week or so this

summer while the bridge membrane is being replaced and a detour traffic plan had been prepared, according to Mr. Battista.

Mr. Battista shared with the Commission feedback received from the DEEP Fisheries Division regarding the scour hole and how the options might affect more regulated area but would have less of a significant impact on the fish. As Mr. Battista was seeking input, both Mr. Ryznar and Ms. Schroeder Perez recommended the saw tooth alternative as presented.

MOTION: Ms. Hall, Ms. Schroeder Perez second, having found the application to be in the public interest, to accept the application in the matter of Town of New Hartford – Map 014 – Lot(s) – Several – Bridge # 05077 – Cedar Lane over Bakerville Brook – Rehabilitation of Existing Bridge and to schedule a public hearing for the next regular meeting; unanimously approved.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

5. MEETING MINUTES – February 3, 2021:

MOTION: Mr. Unger, Ms. Hall second, to approve the February 3, 2021 minutes; unanimously approved.

6. INLAND WETLANDS OFFICER'S ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

MOTION: Ms. Schroeder Perez, Ms. Hall second, to adjourn at 8:20PM; unanimously approved.

**Respectfully submitted,
Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk**