

**New Hartford Inland Wetlands Commission
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 7:00 PM
VIA ONLINE PLATFORM ZOOM**

PRESENT: Chairman James Hall, Anne Hall, Lou Moscaritolo, Nancy Shroeder Perez, Gerald Tabaka, Steve Unger, and Wetlands Agent Mike Lucas.

ABSENT: Karl Hermonat.

Chairman James Hall called the meeting to order at 7:10PM. The meeting was recorded digitally and copies are available through Town Hall.

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

2. PENDING APPLICATIONS:

None.

3. NEW APPLICATIONS:

None.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

5. MEETING MINUTES – March 4, 2020:

MOTION: Mr. Unger, Ms. Schroeder Perez second, to approve the March 4, 2020 Minutes; unanimously approved.

6. INLAND WETLANDS OFFICER'S ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

A. Agent Determination #20-03-01– 3/10/2020 - Jared Carroll/Applicant – Randolph L. & Joan M. Auclair, Trs./Owner - 1320 Litchfield Tpke.- Clean out Hops Irrigation Pond.

Mr. Lucas reminded the Commission that an approval had been received last year to clean out one of the other ponds at this location. He noted that while that work had not yet been done, the applicant agreed to inform him when he does complete it.

Mr. Lucas had noted that there is overgrowth around the edge of the pond. Ms. Hall noted that these irrigation ponds are in the Nepaug watershed and had concerns with a complete lack of vegetation being maintained around these ponds in terms of overall water quality downstream. She questioned the plans in this regard. Mr. Lucas noted that while this was not discussed, the area in this location is very flat. Ms. Hall questioned whether the plan was to dredge the pond or mow around it. Mr. Lucas noted that the applicant had communicated that there was no planned dredging and the work was to only include the surface area at the edge. Mr. Hall requested that Mr. Lucas communicate in writing the scope of the permitted work and to monitor this site. Ms. Hall requested that some form of vegetation be remained around the edges of the pond.

B. Agent Determination #20-05-02 – 5/19/2020 – Caitlin & Brian Gagnon/Owner – 110 Stedman Road – Building a Shed Within 100' of Wetlands.

Mr. Lucas reported that while the subject parcel is very narrow, the owners of this property sought to keep horses at their home. He explained that in order for them to have a zoning compliant shed, they purchased 100' of land from their neighbors and completed a lot line

revision. He further explained that this land was indeed in wetlands but that it was still some distance from the location of the shed for the horse.

C. Agent Determination - #20-05-01 – 5/19/2020 – Clark J. & Cheryl L. Spencer/Owner – 27 Oriole Drive – Minor Storm Water Re-Routing and Removal & Replacement of Chimney.

Mr. Lucas noted this site as located on West Hill Lake, known locally as the four shacks. He reported that the new owners have plans to undertake major renovations but noted that they currently were replacing the chimney on the main lodge. As part of that work, Mr. Lucas reported that they planned to complete minor stormwater rerouting from the high or back side of the lodge. Most of the work would be completed by hand, according to Mr. Lucas. He noted that he had advised the property owners to contact him when their contractor is at the property with his excavator so that he can plan to be on site. Mr. Lucas reported that the site that the water will be running into is already a waterway with a buffer strip before it hits the water.

D. Carl Teravainen – Agent Determination #20-05-03 – 5/2-/2020 – 5/20/2020 – Carl Teravainen/Owner –75 Cottage Street - Removal of Damaged/Unhealthy Trees & Vegetation. Install Erosion Control Planting. Also Review of Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Lucas reported that this project had been going on for a couple of weeks. He explained that prior to advising the office, the owner had taken several dead trees down which had opened up the area. Mr. Lucas indicated that he was not sure how much other brush had previously been in the area, but that upon his inspection, it had been cleared. He reported that when he had visited the site, there were three other dead trees that had remained but had observed that they were in need of being cut down. Mr. Lucas noted that he granted approval to have them removed. After issuing the approval, Mr. Lucas indicated that he had been provided with drone images reflecting that a significant amount of vegetation had been removed.

Mr. Lucas reported that the owner had been responsive in trying to get mitigation going right away. A scaled, hand-drawn sketch of the area was provided by the property owner. Silt fence was installed, and the area was seeded and hayed, according to Mr. Lucas. He noted that all of the stumps remain, and the site appears stable.

Mr. Lucas noted that much input was received from community members and the Farmington River Watershed Association. Mr. Lucas reported that a call was also received from Peter Hearn, Executive Director on Environmental Quality for the State of Connecticut. Mr. Hearn had received copies of the drone images and was therefore following up on a complaint. Mr. Lucas noted that he relayed how the matter had unfolded and how it was being handled. He noted that Mr. Hearn had been satisfied with the response and how the matter was being mitigated. Mr. Lucas read aloud an email received the afternoon of this meeting regarding from Farmington River Coordinating Committee Chair Dan Bowler. In his email, Mr. Bowler offered assistance from FRCC member Alison Murdock. Ms. Murdock was present at this meeting of the Commission. Mr. Lucas noted that an application was not sought as mitigation efforts were undertaken at once.

Mr. Lucas noted that communication had also been had with FRCC Director Liz Lacey, who had suggested that Betsy Corgan may visit the site and offer suggestions on plantings.

Noting that the stumps had not been removed, Ms. Hall questioned whether any regrading had been done. Mr. Lucas noted there had not been and reviewed the berm that exists at the site, noting that the actual river sits out a bit from the subject area. Ms. Hall suggested that a native grass, wild plant mixture might be advisable, explaining that the invasive load in the area is very massive.

Mr. Hall reported that he had been contacted by Mr. Lucas in this matter as soon as it had unfolded and as Ms. Murdock was already involved with the situation, he had agreed that the mitigation efforts were the way to go as quickly as possible.

E. Cease and Desist – 4/23/2020 – James Woodward – 35 Woodchuck Lane.

Mr. Lucas reported that the original call came from the property owner to the First Selectman's Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward after the work was already underway. Mr. Lucas reviewed a photograph of the site showing a large disturbed area. The Commission reviewed how the water's course had been and how a flat area was intended to be converted to a pond. Mr. Lucas reported the property owner had been aware that the area that was being worked in was a wetland area. He explained that during his initial visit to the site, he had requested a map of the area with existing conditions along with what was proposed. Mr. Lucas indicated that what he was provided was not adequate and he had requested that an engineer be retained to prepare the necessary plans. Since that time, the property owners had contacted two different engineers, according to Mr. Lucas. He noted that he has had no additional communication with the property owner. Mr. Lucas explained that he cannot see the area from the road.

Mr. Hall noted that this work is going to require a permit and may also require restoration.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Lucas reported having completed the nine sections of the Inland Wetlands Commission comprehensive training through the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

MOTION: Mr. Unger, Ms. Schroeder Perez second, to adjourn at 7:45PM; unanimously approved.

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