

MINUTES
ENFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021 – 7:00PM
REGULAR MEETING
Enfield Town Hall – Enfield Room
820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT 06082

Call to Order

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Commissioner Higley took the roll and present were Chairman Donna Corbin-Sobinski, Commissioners Kevin Zorda, Virginia Higley, Robert Hendrickson and Carrie Howe.

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that Alternate Commissioner Marie Pyznar had submitted her resignation letter and is no longer on the Commission.

Also present was Georgienna Driver, Assistant Town Planner.

Public Participation

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski asked three times if anyone in the public would like to speak; no one came forward.

Agent Comments

Commissioner Higley stated that the insert in their packet was interesting and should be given to the Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC).

Commissioner Zorda stated that he attended the Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) meeting and it was better than expected and very much wetlands based. Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that she never received the invite and was unable to attend the meeting.

Correspondence

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski reiterated that the article in their packet mentioned by Commissioner Higley was interesting.

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that Executive Session had been cancelled.

Approval of Minutes: November 3, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Zorda made motion, seconded by Commissioner Higley, to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2021 meeting.

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

Votes: 5-0-0

RECEIVED
ENFIELD TOWN CLERK
2021 NOV 19 PM 2:57
Sharon M. Bailey

Continued Public Hearings

- a. **IW#635-** 117 North Street- Restore lost Wetlands (filled / disturbed) and to allow for the development of a contractor storage yard for materials, trucks, and an agricultural cropland; Wesley Wentworth, Applicant Representative; Joseph Liquore, Applicant/Owner; Map 93/ Lot 15; I-1 Zone. (DoR:10/5/2021)

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that the Commission received a request for continuation.

Motion: Commissioner Zorda made a motion, seconded by Commission Higley, to continue IW#635 until December 7, 2021.

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

Votes: 5-0-0

Old Business

- a. **IW#629-** 52 South Road- Application for wetlands permit for a storage garage and geo-grid style gravel road addition request; Amy Molina, Applicant/Owner; Map 73/Lot 94; R-44 Zone. (DoR: 9/7/2021)

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that this had been tabled at the last meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Zorda made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, to remove IW#629 from the table.

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

Votes: 5-0-0

Commissioner Zorda made a motion to approve IW#629 with the site specific conditions that they make a retention basin around the garage to be approved by Staff and that the permeable weed barrier must be removed from the upland area or changed to a more permeable material as approved by Staff.

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that the manufacturer says the weed barrier is needed for stability. Ms. Driver stated that Engineering said that the weight from the type of gravel they are using will cause it to stay in place, especially with the grid. Discussion took place regarding the necessity of the weed barrier, with Ms. Driver concluding that they can make the site specific condition that the weed barrier be correctly done rather than removed.

Motion: Commissioner Zorda made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, to approve IW#629 with the following site specific conditions: a retention basin around the garage to be approved by Staff; the weed barrier be correctly done; the gravel road may not be accessed from the roadway; no fuel or other chemicals may be stored in the building; no vehicle repairs or maintenance may be performed; no plowing of the driveway may be performed; no utilities located within the building; the building is only to be used for the storage of a boat, a jet ski, and two vehicles; no storing of equipment; a minimal yearly cleaning needs to be performed; pictures must be provided that show the measurement from the right of way to the driveway; information regarding what is going to retain the stone around the building must be provided to Planning; the final building plan must be submitted to Staff prior to construction.

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that the application is incomplete and was done poorly. She went over the items that are lacking in the application and stated that there is more work to be done with it. Chairman Corbin-Sobinski concluded that she cannot vote in favor of the project with the current application; Commissioners Higley and Howe agreed.

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that she will be voting without prejudice so the applicant can come back. Commissioner Hendrickson asked if some of this is on the town as the town was asked to help the applicant. Commissioner Howe stated that they had asked specific questions about the water flow and without the answers she cannot in good conscience vote in favor of the application. Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that it is a poor application and Staff let the applicant down.

The motion failed with a 1-4-0 vote with Commissioners Corbin-Sobinski, Zorda, Howe and Higley voting against.

Votes: 1-4-0

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that the applicant can come back with the requested information.

- b. **IW#636-59** Cottage Road- Application for a Wetlands Permit to replace the sea wall; David Vesce, Owner/Applicant; Map 80, Lot 180; R-33 Zone. (DoR: 9/21/21)

Motion: Commissioner Zorda made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Higley, to remove IW#636 from the table.

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

Votes: 5-0-0

David Vesce, 59 Cottage Road, stated that he bought the house five years ago and in that time a chunk of his wall has fallen down. He stated that he is trying to replace it for safety concerns. Mr. Vesce stated that

one alternative is to take the wall completely out, but this would cause him to have to do more excavation. He stated that he owns 13 feet in front of his wall. Mr. Vesce described the wall he would like to build and what materials he wants to use.

Commissioner Higley asked if the wall holds everything back so the dirt does not go into the lake; Mr. Vesce confirmed this to be the case. He stated that he is debating putting brick right in front of the wall.

Commissioner Zorda stated that the application says the old wall will be removed and asked if this is still the case. Mr. Vesce stated that if it is possible he would like to put the new wall right in front of the old one. Commissioner Zorda stated that the application would have to be changed to address how that is going to be done.

Commissioner Zorda asked what the concrete situation is in terms of the lake. Mr. Vesce stated that they have a private community, and nothing that is dry can go back into the lake.

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski asked if the water is far enough away to do this, to which Mr. Vesce replied that they drain it once or twice a year. He stated that he is thinking of using some higher quality materials such as stainless steel and good quality brick.

Mr. Vesce stated that he wants to get it done right so his son can enjoy it. Commissioner Zorda stated that it makes sense to put it in front of the wall as long as he can do the geo-gridding.

Commissioner Zorda stated that the applicant should re-do the application to make note of how the project is going to be done. Chairman Corbin-Sobinski asked if there is a timeline, to which Ms. Driver replied that the applicant has a long time. Discussion took place regarding what exactly the applicant has to change on his application.

Ms. Driver read through the Department comments from the Staff Report. Discussion took place regarding the next steps for the applicant. Mr. Vesce stated that he does not want to hire an engineer to sign off on his application; Commissioner Higley stated that wetlands is through the State and he does not want the State to get involved. Ms. Driver stated that it has not been common practice to require such plans from residential projects like this, even though it is on the checklist. Commissioner Zorda stated that a more detailed and accurate drawing with a scale is needed. Discussion took place regarding what should be included on the updated drawing.

Motion: Commissioner Zorda made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to table IW#636.

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

Votes: 5-0-0

c. **POCD:** Generate Goals and Ideas

Motion: Commissioner Howe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Higley, to table the POCD discussion.

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

Votes: 5-0-0

Commissioner Zorda stated that the wetlands part is basically done. Ms. Driver stated that the Commission still needs to come up with goals and she will make them a draft list for their next packet.

New Business

- a. **IW#637-** 30 Woodlawn Ave and 18 Sunset Drive- Application for a Wetlands Permit for the new development of two single family homes in two parcels that contain wetlands and watercourses; Jeffrey Filiault, Applicant/Owner; Map 33/Lot 125 and Map 33/Lot 169; R-33 Zones (DoR: 11/3/21)

Jeffrey Filiault, 17 Falcon Crest, addressed the Commission. He stated that he is looking to build two new houses on Sunset. He stated that the southern lot is calling for a minor culvert crossing the driveway. Mr. Filiault stated that he had evaluations performed by a civil engineer and a soil scientist, and both reports had been submitted to the Commission. He stated that the sewer department is on board and that the drainage plan is included in the Commissioners' packets.

Mr. Filiault clarified that the second house is on three acres and the main house is actually on 14 acres. He pointed out on the plans where the culvert is going to be located.

Commissioner Howe asked if a right of way will be put on for the driveway, to which Mr. Filiault replied that it will. Commissioner Howe asked if the southern house could have been pushed back further since it is 26 feet from the property line, which puts it close to the wetlands. Mr. Filiault stated that it has to be 25 feet and they do not want to cut more trees down than they have to as they want to keep as much woods as possible.

Commissioner Zorda stated that most of this is in the upland review area. Mr. Filiault stated that it drops down steeply back there, which is why the flood zone is so much farther down. He stated that it is an easement for the sewer and once you get past it the land on the other side is beautiful land.

Commissioner Zorda stated that the soil scientist contradicts himself as far as whether the wetlands have significant value. Mr. Filiault pointed out areas on the map that the soil scientist is referring to in his report.

Ms. Driver read the Staff Report aloud.

Commissioner Zorda stated that he would like to see a site condition of silt fencing and hay bales due to the amount of wetlands.

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski asked if Mr. Filiault will be building the house, to which Mr. Filiault replied that he is the builder.

Commissioner Zorda stated that he did not see a specific plan for the installation of a culvert and asked how big it is going to be. Mr. Filiault stated that it is going to be 30 feet by 15 inches.

Commissioner Zorda asked if he will be doing an asphalt driveway, to which Mr. Filiault replied that he will and also will be adding a turnaround for the town.

Commissioner Zorda stated that it is a ten foot drop to the house from the road. He stated that it looks like there will be some grade changes and pointed them out on the map.

Motion: Commissioner Zorda made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Higley, to approve IW#637 with the site specific condition that both silt fencing and hay bales will be used to protect the wetlands.

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

Votes: 5-0-0

- b. **XIW#638-** South River Street Bridge- Application for a Wetlands Permit for replacement and construction of the deficient bridge and environmental remediation of lead paint; Town of Enfield, Applicant; John Cabibbo, Applicant Representative; TD-4 Zone. (DoR: 11/3/21)

Paul Brand of GM2 Associates addressed the Commission. He stated that the existing bridge is slated to be replaced. Mr. Brand provided a background of the bridge including size, location and previous repairs. He stated that the bridge does not currently have any standard safety equipment and is deficient both structurally and in terms of safety.

Mr. Brand went over the existing utilities alongside the bridge, including the sewer and gas mains. He stated that the gas mains will be removed and relocated, and the sanitary sewer will be left in place and not touched.

Mr. Brand pointed out where the wetlands and existing drainage discharge are located. He stated that the existing drainage discharge will be relocated and new catch basins will be installed on the south side of the bridge to catch runoff. Mr. Brand stated that the outlet will be rerouted downstream.

Mr. Brand pointed out the proposed sidewalk and stated that the proposed bridge is 8 or 9 feet wider than the existing bridge. He went over the wetland impacts associated with the project and stated that the goal is to protect the slopes for years to come.

Mr. Brand pointed out the flood plain areas and stated that there will be no increase in water surface elevations for any of the storms. He stated that they received approvals from the State of Connecticut Hydraulics & Drainage unit for a flood management certificate.

Mr. Brand pointed out areas of temporary wetland impacts. He stated that they will be adding boulders to the design in order to provide some fish habitat as part of the permitting process with the State of Connecticut DEEP Fisheries.

Mr. Brand described the materials that will be used on the bridge and stated that the existing gas mains will be relocated to the downstream side of the bridge.

Mr. Brand utilized a schematic of the proposed water handling to illustrate the plan for water and sediment flow. He stated that there is asbestos and lead paint associated with the existing bridge, which will be removed properly utilizing a tent and debris shield.

Mr. Brand stated that coffer dams will be installed to prevent leakage of materials into the stream during construction of the abutment walls. He stated that riprap slope stabilization will also be used on the embankments.

Mr. Brand stated that they have already received their ConnDOT flood management certificate. He stated that the Army Corps of Engineers granted this project a self-verification status, which means they found no significant impacts from what was proposed. Mr. Brand stated that CTDEEP Fisheries also determined that the project contained no adverse impacts to any wildlife habitats and the Wetlands Commission is the final step.

Commissioner Zorda stated that the project is very well planned out and necessary, and will be a great upgrade for the community.

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski asked how long the project will take. Mr. Brand stated that it is slated to begin this spring and will take one full construction season. He stated that the bridge will be closed for four months during construction, which will take from April until the end of November.

Motion: Commissioner Zorda made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to approve XIW#638.

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

Votes: 5-0-0

Enforcement Report(s)

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that there was a Notice of Violation for Mr. Liquore's property on North Street, which the Commission will discuss at the next meeting.

Report of Planning Staff

- a. Adopt 2022 Calendar Dates for Meetings

Motion: Commissioner Zorda made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Higley, to accept the 2022 calendar meeting dates which he stated will be on Tuesdays.

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

Votes: 5-0-0

Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Howe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Higley, to adjourn.

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

Votes: 5-0-0

Prepared by: Elizabeth Bouley

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Higley, Secretary