

TOWN OF ANDOVER
INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 - 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Chair George Elliott, William Munroe, Ed Smith (alternate)

Member Absent: Jed Larson

Others Present: Joseph Wagner - Wetland Agent and acting Board Clerk, Judi

Connelly, Hank Gruner, Jeff Hays, and Mark Reynolds.

1) CALL TO ORDER: Chair G.Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2) ROLL CALL/SEATING OF ALTERNATES: E. Smith was seated in place of Jed Larson.

3) CHANGES IN ORDER TO AGENDA: None.

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. August 1, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes: G.Elliott **MOVED** to approve the August 1, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. W. Munroe **SECONDED**. By roll call vote, **MOTION CARRIED 3:0:0**.

5) PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

6) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **IWWC #22-11: ALMA, Andover Lake-** Proposed Removal of aquatic vegetation in the South Cove of Andover Lake using a Hydro-Rake.

J. Hays presented the application. He stated that the reason for the application is to remove the cattails and lily pads that have expanded in the South Cove of the lake. He stated that there are several patches that have also expanded into the main body of the lake. He explained that a Hydro-Rake is basically a dredge with a grappling hook that will pull the plants out by the roots. The plants will be placed into a dumpster and hauled away from the lake.

G. Elliott noted that there is a picture of the Hydro Rake. J. Hays explained that it is a boat that can be driven into and out of the lake.

W. Munroe asked if there should be a barrier between the cove and the lake during the process. J. Hays explained that he asked the contractor and the contractor said that the cove is so shallow that any sediment should settle out quickly.

J. Hays stated that this application for Hydro-raking is a test case and that, if it works well, they would like to use it in the future instead of herbicides.

G. Elliott asked why ALMA would like to remove the cattails and lily pads from the cove. J. Hays explained that the cattails have spread out about 20 feet from the shoreline, and that they would like to remove the plants so that the cove doesn't get taken over by the cattails and lily pads.

W. Munroe asked if dredging was considered. J. Hays explained that hydro-raking is similar to dredging but is less disruptive. A study would be needed to determine if dredging would be good for the cove.

G. Elliott asked when ALMA plans to hydro-rake the cove. J. Hays said that they would like to dredge the cove in early October, before the water was drawn down for the winter.

b. **IWWC #22-12:** Mark Reynolds (Engineer) and Judy Connelly (Property Owner), **Lot 22 Lake Road**- Proposed driveway and culvert construction within wetlands for a new single family residence.

G. Elliott explained that an application for a driveway at this property was approved in 2005, but the permit expired. He also stated that there were some conditions attached to the previous approval.

M. Reynolds presented the application to the commission. He explained that the proposed house follows the same configuration as the houses on either side of the property.

M. Reynolds explained that this application is substantially the same as the application that was approved by the commission in 2005, and that he walked the site and doesn't have any reason to think that there would be any significant change in the wetland boundary.

M. Reynolds explained that the septic system would be located to the rear of the property, furthest away from the wetland. He explained that the driveway crossing would require a culvert, and explained the rain garden that would be placed on the property to comply with the Zoning Nutrient Allocation regulations. He explained that there would be about 1000 square feet of wetlands disturbance, and about 2500 square feet of disturbance in the upland review area.

He explained that there would be a rock apron area at each end of the culvert, and silt fence to protect the wetlands during construction. He stated that they looked at alternatives, and that, since the wetlands run across the front of the property, there were no other ways to get to the buildable section of the property.

E. Smith asked about the symbol on the plan at the front of the driveway. M. Reynolds explained that it is a temporary construction entrance pad to protect the street.

W. Munroe asked where the wetlands area ends. M. Reynolds explained that the northern end of the wetlands is displayed on the map, and that the wetlands on the south may extend further, but that there is a driveway at 407 Lake Road near that area.

G. Elliott explained that photos submitted by the Wetlands Agent taken in January clearly showed a seasonal watercourse on the property. M. Reynolds explained that the application sought to best describe the proposed activity, and that the characterization of a watercourse shouldn't change the design of the plan.

G. Elliott explained that there were no engineering details for the culvert on the plan, and that he would like to see it on the plan. M. Reynolds explained that it would be a 10x10 area or rock area on each end of the culvert and that the plan would follow the BMP in the DEEP manual. He stated that he would provide an update with the culvert detail.

G. Elliott read the invasive plant species removal notes on the plan, and asked if the removal plan could be extended further into the watercourse. M. Reynolds stated that every effort can be made to remove invasive species, and that he will convey the chairman's message to the owner.

J. Wagner stated that the wetland area was different in the winter, and that it did look like a watercourse, and that when he went there to take pictures last week, the area was dry and the stream channel wasn't well-defined, and that it was pretty flat in the wetland area.

G. Elliott asked M. Reynolds to submit the graphics from his presentation so that they can be included in the application materials. M. Reynolds said that he would submit them.

7) AGENT REPORT/ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS:

- a. Agent Approval of Application **IWWC #22-09**: Donna Phillips, **57 Hendee Road**- Construction of a 2-car metal garage for housing vehicles within the 200-foot Upland Review Area of Skungamaug River wetlands.

J. Wagner explained that there would be some excavation and a concrete pad built. He stated that the garage is far from the wetlands, in between the garage and the road.

- b. Agent Approval of Application **IWWC #22-10**: Chris Sutyla, **369 Lake Road**- Replacement of a cracked 1000-gallon concrete septic tank with a 1000-gallon plastic two-chamber septic tank with an outlet filter.

J. Wagner explained that this was a 1-day project and that plans were available online to view.

- c. Cleanup of Vernal Pool east of Andover Auto Parts

J. Wagner explained that H. Gruner showed him some tires and wheels that were in a vernal pool at the property. J. Wagner asked the owner to remove the tires, and the owner replied that the pool has been cleaned up. J. Wagner stated that he has not been out to check the area yet.

G. Elliott asked for an update on the 25 Cider Mill Rd project. J. Wagner stated that he didn't see anything at the property, but that the plan was to cross the brook with the excavator, so there wouldn't be much to see on the property from the road since most of the work was behind the house.

G. Elliott asked about the nutrient allocation worksheet for a Lake Rd property. J. Wagner stated that it was still in progress, and that they were planning to run the roof drains into drywells.

8) OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Commission Vacancies

G. Elliott told the commission that he contacted former chair Meghan Lally. She said that she would consider re-joining the commission if they decided to resume in-person meetings.

- b. Review and Potential Approval of a letter of support regarding the towns open space application for purchasing the “Laudano” property.

Conservation Commission Member H. Gruner explained the proposed acquisition of the property through the DEEP Open Space and Land Acquisition Program. He explained that the property is a 162-acre piece of undeveloped land between Shoddy Mill Rd and Boston Hill Rd. He explained that it was in the town’s western highlands open space corridor, and that the land has 15 vernal pools, and stated that the area is wetland rich, and acts as a buffer for the Burnap Brook coldwater stream habitat, which is a habitat that is extremely vulnerable to changing climate. He explained that the Board of Selectmen has approved the use of the open space funds and approved the submission of an application to DEEP. The Board of Selectmen has also granted permission to enter negotiations for the property.

H. Gruner is requesting a letter of support from the Wetlands Commission, and already has a support letters from the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Conservation Commission is in the process of writing a support letter.

G. Elliott stated that he agreed that is a high-value area for conservation. He asked if there would be use restrictions on the land.

H. Gruner stated that, if the program was awarded state funding, the use of the property would be limited to ecological purposes, and passive recreation such as hiking. He stated that there is an existing cart path and some old logging roads, but stated that the town would work with Joshua’s trust to design trails that wouldn’t negatively impact the wetlands, and wouldn’t need a lot of maintenance. He stated that a parking lot would be necessary, and that there is a suitable location along Shoddy Mill Rd.

H. Gruner stated that they didn’t exclude logging for ecological management purposes only, and that hunting for ecological health may need to be considered if deer abundance affected the forest health.

H. Gruner stated that the Environmental Review Team recommended similar use conditions on another open space property that they reviewed in Andover.

H. Gruner explained the potential trail systems that can be connected to the Hop River State Park Trail System. He explained that biking would not be allowed in the conservation area, but that a bike rack could be installed in the parking area.

E. Smith thanked H. Gruner for the presentation and said that he supported the proposal.

G. Elliott **MOVED** to express the support of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for the Town of Andover’s acquisition of the Laudano property. W. Munroe **SECONDED**. By roll call vote, **MOTION CARRIED 3:0:0**.

G. Elliott stated that he would draft a letter of support on behalf of the Wetlands Commission.

c. Discussion of IWWC20-36 (26 Old Farms Rd- Loteczka, Correia)

J. Wagner explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission asked the IWWC to discuss the change in the where the utilities were run through the property to access the houses. He stated that Eversource wanted to run all the utilities through the crossing and driveway at Pine Ridge Drive. He stated that the new plan would not change the impact to the wetlands, as there was a planned utilities crossing there anyway. G. Elliott stated that this may reduce the wetlands impact, as there were some wetlands areas along the driveway on Old Farms Rd, where the utilities would be placed under the old plan.

W. Munroe stated that he was told that the wetlands crossing had been built. J. Wagner stated that it has been built, and that he usually visits the site once a week to check on progress. W. Munroe asked if photos could be presented at the next meeting, as he would like to see the crossing.

G. Elliott asked if a report could be provided at the next meeting.

9) NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, October 3rd, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

10) ADJOURNMENT: G. Elliott, without objection, **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. No Objections, **MOTION CARRIED**.

Respectfully submitted by Joseph Wagner

NOTE: Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.