

Town of Andover Connecticut
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission
February 11, 2019 7:00 P.M.
Community Room, 17 School Road, Andover, CT
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Mike Landolphi, Meghan Lally, Jed Larson, Ed Smith (Alternate), James Hallisey (Alternate), and George Elliott (Alternate)

Members Absent: Richard Osborne and Wayne Thorpe

Others Present: Wetlands Agent John Valente, Recording Secretary Linda McDonald, Brandon Handfield, P.E. from Yantic River Engineering, Matthew Haggerty, Carrie Crompton and Hank Gruner

1. Call to Order: M. Landolphi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call/Seating of Alternates: J. Hallisey was seated for R. Osborne and G. Elliott was seated for W. Thorpe.
3. Additions/Changes to the Agenda:

E. Smith MOVED to address 6.b before New Business. J. Hallisey SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

E. Smith MOVED to add agenda item 6.f: CT Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Community Connectivity Grant. G. Elliott SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.
4. Public Participation: None
5. New Business

5.a. Discussion of sites being considered for invasive plant removal by Conservation Commission in March-April 2019:

M. Lally recused herself from voting, stating she is a member of the Conservation Commission.

C. Crompton, representing the Conservation Commission, said she was here to let the Commission know of areas being considered for invasive plant removal by the Conservation Commission. She described the locations (Chamberlain Pond area, along Cheney Brook between Merritt Valley Road and Rail Trail, along Rail Trail behind the Transfer Station, DOT lot next to the Andover Historical Society Museum, and Paper Mill dike) and stated that all eradication work would be mechanical, with no use of herbicides.

C. Crompton asked if the Commission has any reservations with this activity or did the Conservation Commission need to apply for a permit. The non-regulated activity section 4.2a of the Wetlands regulations was reviewed and discussion followed.

G. Elliott MOVED to accept the Conservation Commission's plans concerning invasive plant removal as read and that this activity falls under 4.2.a of the Wetlands Regulations as a non-regulated use in the wetlands and watercourses. E. Smith SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1 with M. Lally abstaining.

6. Old Business

Discuss and act upon:

- 6.a Application of Scott Person, Chair of the Ad-HOC Committee designated to maintain the Hop River Trail. Permit for placement of a pedestrian bridge over a watercourse and anchored in a wetland soil, placement of a picnic table and bench in a wetlands on Long Hill Road, map 27, block 007, lot 021. Discussion on construction and maintenance of River Trail:

J. Valente reported that this application has been withdrawn as to concerns expressed by the Commission but may be re-submitted.

- 6.b Application of Matthew Haggerty for the installation of a driveway, house, well and septic system located on Townsend Road, map 27, block 21, lot 16A (1,500 sq. ft. NW of Hebron Road and immediate to the Townsend Cemetery), 2,740 sq. ft. of wetlands to be filled and 0.45 acres of uplands disturbed:

B. Handfield, representing the applicant, explained the following additions have been made to the plan based on Commission feedback and questions:

1. Correspondence from Soil Scientist John Ianni regarding the wetlands crossing,
2. A plan to eradicate invasive plants within the crossing location and planting of native species along the shoulder of the driveway,
3. On the final plan will be an acknowledgement of the resource to the west of the property, which is Saddle Brook, as an area of special concern with a 200' buffer (upland review area) and there would be no disturbance within the 200' buffer.

B. Handfield proposed that the applicant be allowed to remove dead or damaged trees due to the recent infestations of gypsy moths and Emerald Ash Borer insects.

J. Valente recommended, as a condition of approval, that activity be limited during the dry time of the year due to involvement of the intermittent watercourse. B. Handfield proposed a diversion action plan if there is a rain event during construction.

J. Valente gave B. Handfield a copy of the Natural Diversity Data Base Map to review.

J. Valente read the Summary Ruling for this application into the record.

G. Elliott MOVED to approve the application of Matthew Haggerty for the installation of a driveway, house, well and septic system located on Townsend Road, map 27, block 21, lot 16A (1,500 sq. ft. NW of Hebron Road and immediate to the Townsend Cemetery), 2,740 sq. ft. of wetlands to be filled and 0.45 acres of uplands disturbed. E. Smith SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

- 6.c Draft Lake Regulations pending Planning and Zoning Commission Approval:

J. Valente commented that the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) continues to work on drafting Lake regulations. Discussion followed on the use of these regulations as a tool for reducing contaminations into the Lake. J. Valente encouraged the Commission to read the regulations.

- 6.d Discuss updating Regulations to be in compliance with legislative changes:
- J. Valente distributed copies of the draft sections of the Andover Wetlands Regulations updated with the latest State of Connecticut model wetlands regulations changes for Commission review. He explained the regulations changes would require a public hearing.
- 6.e Review of IWWC Bylaws:
- J. Valente distributed copies of the Commission bylaws. M. Lally said she did a comparison of the bylaws to the Town Charter and found conflicting language. The language in the Town Charter takes precedence over language in the bylaws.
- M. Lally MOVED to establish a subcommittee consisting of herself, J. Hallisey, and G. Elliott, to work with J. Valente to review the bylaws and report back to the Commission at a future meeting. G. Elliott SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.
- 6.f CT Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Community Connectivity Grant:
- J. Valente reported that the Town has been awarded a CT Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Community Connectivity Grant for pedestrian access improvements along Route 6 in the vicinity of the Congregational Church and Library. He explained the improvements would include activities in the wetlands by the river behind the gas station. The Town will need to submit an application to the Commission for a permit to conduct activity within 200' of the wetlands.
7. Approval of Minutes: Discussion and action on this agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.
8. Administrative Report:
- J. Valente reported there has not been much activity and he continues to monitor the area around the Lake. He said most of his time has been spent on PZC matters.
9. Correspondence:
- 9.a Eversource Correspondence dated January 11, 2019: J. Valente reported Eversource will be conducting routine vegetation maintenance work within their electric system right of ways in Town.
- 9.b Resignation of Sandra Nichols as Secretary for the IWWC effective January 31, 2019: Sandra was thanked for her work for the Commission.
- 9.c Eastern CT Conservation District FY 2020 membership support request: J. Valente reported that the annual dues to ECCD are \$500.00 and are not budgeted by the Town.
10. Adjournment: E. Smith MOVED to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m. G. Elliott SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald

Linda H. McDonald

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