

Town of Andover
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission
Town Hall Community Room at 17 School Road, Andover, CT
Monday, September 9th, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Rick Osborne called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

2. Roll Call / Seating of Alternates

Regular Members: Rick Osborne, Jed Larson, Ed Smith
Regular Members Absent: Wayne Thorpe, Michael Landolphi
Alternate Members Present: George Elliot, Meghan Lally, Jim Hallisey
Alternate Members Absent: None

Meghan Lally seated for Wayne Thorpe
George Elliot seated for Michael Landolphi

Wetlands Agent Present: John Valente
Board Clerk Present: Amanda Gibson
Town Administrator: Eric Anderson
Town Engineer: Gerry Hardisty
Senior Coordinator: Cathy Palazzi

3. Additions / Changes to Agenda

Meghan Lally MOVED to add an application under Item 5b.
Remove and replace existing 24" culvert on Hutchinson Road and
reassign Item 5b. as Item 5c.
Ed Smith SECONDED
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0

4. Public Participation

None.

5. New Business

- a. Review application from Town of Andover regarding the municipal improvement via the Department of Transportation Community Connectivity Grant awarded to the Town of Andover.

Town Engineer Gerry Hardisty: Presented preliminary maps and detailed plans. The two areas of concern for IWWC are:

1. Center Street: Fix the existing drainage swale so the water does not puddle up in the parking lot. Recommended for erosion control in the ditch stabilize and allow vegetation to grow in.

- Town Administrator Eric Anderson: Explained there is no functioning drainage structure because it is known that the DEEP filled the historic drainage for Center St when the Rail Trail (East Coast Greenway) was installed. Town wants to reestablish the drainage swale.
2. Long Hill Road/Hop River: Due to paving of bike lane/sidewalk, there could be sediment that washes down the road. There should be no disturbance along the roadside. Length of the sidewalk on Long Hill Road is approximately 200'.
- Wetlands Agent John Valente: Requested the construction crew to break up the project to not disturb the soil all at once, to be broken up every 40' to slow the velocity and trap sediment. Elevate in between the framing forms possibly with sand bags to create barriers.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson: Stated that the town is using local Conservation Biologist Hank Gruner to consult with since it is an area with reptiles to potentially be disturbed. Box turtles and green smooth snakes are not a concern in this area but are a concern in nearby field areas.

- Hank Gruner confirmed that it is not an issue but would request to speak with the construction crews prior to starting the Center Street project on how to relocate animals if found. He may recommend silt fencing at Long Hill Road for the turtles for the sidewalk construction.
- Hank Gruner will provide letters stating these requirements and recommendations.

Meghan Lally shared that purpose of the IWWC Special Meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 was to work on the refreshed IWWC application process with a checklist. The commission aspires to ensure all applications contain all the elements required from Section 7.5 of the IWWC Regulations. All applications also require a completed Statewide Reporting Form. The commission is not worried that this is a significant activity but would request maps and specifics regarding how the project will affect the wetlands areas.

- Wetlands Agent John Valente: Offered to ensure the application follows the regulations.
- Town Engineer Gerry Hardisty: Offered to provide details for the wetlands areas of the project.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson: Announced that the town hopes construction would begin in the spring. Project needs to move along since once it is approved by the town, then the state approval process begins with the final plans.

Jed Larson recommended including this application on the upcoming Special Meeting agenda along with the other application.

Town Engineer Gerry Hardisty left the meeting at 7:36 P.M.

- b. Application: Town of Andover, 17 School Road, Remove and replace existing 24" culvert with a 24" culvert on Hutchinson Road.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson: The town has a culvert on Hutchinson Road that has partially collapsed. The hope is to address issue this fall while there is little water. Application is due to wetlands soil above the drainage site.

Wetlands Agent John Valente: Explained the high density plastic pipe 24" culvert to be installed and the details of the location.

Meghan Lally MOVED to host a Site Walk Special Meeting on Monday, September 30th at 6:00 P.M. following a meeting at approximately 6:45 P.M. at the Town Hall Community Room for pending approval of the application.

Jed Larson SECONDED
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0

Meghan Lally MOVED to receive information regarding the CDOT Community Connectivity Grant at the Monday, September 30th Special Meeting, without taking action on this application.

Jed Larson SECONDED
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0

- c. Application: Tracey Moore, 93 Gilead Road, Map 26, Block 22, Lot G-6 for installation of 30' x 80' green house in wetlands on the adjacent property Map 26, Block 22, Lot G-5.

Applicant Tracey Moore: Presented reasoning and ideas behind her family's potential greenhouse installation.

Wetlands Agent John Valente: Announced he believes this would be a reasonable improvement. This is an alternative to potential building of another home in wetlands, eliminating potential need to fill approximately 5k square feet of wetlands.

- Explained that the subdivision was approved in 1963 with second empty lot as a potential building lot.
- The applicant would cut down a few stumps down to the ground and remove protruding rocks, creating level stone base for the greenhouse and placing 6-12" of stones level inside the greenhouse.

Member Meghan Lally: Inquired if there is any other location to install the greenhouse.

Applicant Tracey Moore: Explained the way the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, with this being the only location for the greenhouse.

Member George Elliot: Inquired about water drainage.

Tracey Moore: Explained potential hydroponic system.

Wetlands Agent John Valente: Believes the land was originally used for agricultural purposes. Referred to the IWWC Regulations, Section 4.1a Permitted Uses as of Right and Non-Regulated Uses, in regards to farming:

- 4.1 *The following operations and uses shall be permitted in inland wetlands and watercourses, as of right:*
- a. *Grazing, farming, nurseries, gardening and harvesting of crops and farm ponds of three acres or less essential to the farming operation, and activities conducted by, or under the authority of, the Department of Environmental Protection for the purposes of wetland or watercourse restoration or enhancement or mosquito control. The provisions of this subdivision shall not be construed to include road construction or the erection of buildings not directly related to the farming operation, relocation of watercourses with continual flow, filling or reclamation of wetlands or watercourses with continual flow, clear cutting of timber except the expansion of agricultural crop land, or the mining of top soil, peat, sand, gravel or similar material from wetlands or watercourses for the purposes of sale;*

Meghan Lally: Inquired if it would be a small scale farm in the future offering vegetables, etc. and if the regulations includes structures for improving existing or new farms. It is significant that the property is zoned both residential and agricultural.

Meghan Lally MOVED for Wetlands Agent John Valente to contact Town Attorney Mark Branse to discuss the application and determine if it is automatically permitted due to being an agricultural operation or if it requires a special permit from IWWC.
Ed Smith SECONDED
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0

Member Jed Larson: Inquired on process to combine two lots.
Wetlands Agent John Valente: Confirmed it is possible to abolish the line. The Town Assessor would reassess the property. Reassured this to be a positive application since it would improve a subdivision and not allow another home on a potential building lot in wetlands.

Meghan Lally MOVED to host a Site Walk Special Meeting on Monday, September 30th 2019 at 5:30 P.M. at 93 Gilead Road PRIOR to the Site Walk Special Meeting at 6:00 P.M. for Application to remove and replace existing 24" culvert with a 24" culvert on Hutchinson Road.
Jed Larson SECONDED
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0

6. Old Business

- a. Review IWWC revisions of Application Packet & Checklist.

Meghan Lally MOVED to postpone discussion of Item 6a. until the next Regular Meeting on Thursday, October 17th, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.
Ed Smith SECONDED
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0

- b. Choose a second commission member to represent IWWC at the next Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 11th, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. to present nominations and other items.

George Elliot offered to attend the meeting with Meghan Lally.

7. Conservation Commission Report

Meghan Lally announced that she resigned from the Conservation Commission.

8. Administrative Report

Wetlands Agent John Valente: Announced his resignation and that he has been coming in on an as need basis.

Recently issued an administrative approval to deforest a property on Lakeside Drive. Property is approximately 100'x100' property with a 70 square foot house. Town does not regulate trees unless it is in wetlands.

Opened discussion on the 2020 Meeting Schedule:

Ed Smith MOVED to approve the 2nd Monday of the month
Regular Meetings at 7:00 P.M. for the year 2020.

Jed Larson SECONDED
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0

Member Meghan Lally shared the following event:

Land Use Academy Advanced Training on October 26th, 2019 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at the Middlesex County Extension Office in Haddam, CT.

9. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Approval of Monday, August 12th Regular Meeting Minutes.

Jed Larson MOVED to approve the Monday, August 12th Regular Meeting Minutes.

Meghan Lally SECONDED

MOTION CARRIED 3:0:2 (George Elliot and Ed Smith abstained)

b. Approval of Tuesday, August 20th Special Meeting Minutes.

George Elliot MOVED to approve the Tuesday, August 20th Special Meeting Minutes.

Meghan Lally SECONDED with the one small correction.
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0

10. Public Participation

None.

11. Adjournment

Rick Osborne adjourned the meeting at 9:10 P.M.

Meeting Minutes helpfully submitted by Board Clerk, Amanda Gibson.

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