

**MIDDLEFIELD INLAND WETLANDS  
 and  
 WATERCOURSES AGENCY  
 405 Main Street  
 Middlefield, Connecticut 06455**

Minutes of the August 15, 2018 Regular Meeting

Rebecca Adams, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Attendance:

Members		Alternates	
X	Adams, Rebecca	A	Zieminski, Charles
X	Angiletta, Irene		
X	Brown, James		
X	Li, Linda		
A	Manning, John	Other	
A	Poturnicki, Rob	X	Bernotas, Randy
X	Veeley, Robert		

A=Absent

X=Present

Amendments to the Agenda

Linda Li made a motion, seconded by Robert Veeley, to add permit application #0805-18 from Lyman Farm, Inc. as item 5.5 on the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Adams also notified the members that permit application #0601-18 (Jennifer Fontanella) has been withdrawn.

Public Comment

None.

Discussion and potential action on permit application #0601-18, Jennifer Fontanella, 22 Lake Road, to construct a paved driveway and remove trees

Rebecca Adams reviewed that there had been a site walk on the property, but they have now determined that they are not going to pave the driveway. Rebecca Adams suggested that they submit a new permit application, at no charge, for any activities they intend to do.

Receipt of application #0808-18, 8 Race Track Hollow, Richard Beaumont, to construct a 30x40 garage within 100' of a wetland

Rebecca Adams reported that Brian Curtis had submitted a letter regarding this application and it was distributed to the members.

Richard Beaumont distributed a map of the area, showing his home and the wetlands that start 75 feet from his well. He also had a picture of the area. He intends to construct a 30x40 garage with a gravel driveway. This garage will not be an everyday use garage and will be more for storage of lawn equipment and his Corvette.

Linda Li asked about the location of the wetland and Mr. Beaumont explained that the wetlands start behind where the garage will be located. Jim Brown asked about the lawn drain and Randy Bernotas explained that it was probably about an 8-inch drain and has never been wet. Brian Curtis had pointed that out, but it should not be a problem to have the garage over it. Rebecca Adams had asked Brian Curtis about the gravel and he felt that the area is flat and he didn't see it as an issue.

After speaking to Brian Curtis, Rebecca Adams felt that this did not require a public hearing. Randy Bernotas noted that the wetlands behind the property are basically an intermittent drainage watercourse and is not a stream or a brook. The area for the garage is already a mowed area.

Rebecca Adams made a motion, seconded by Jim Brown, to approve IWWA permit application #0808-18, Richard Beaumont, to construct a 30x40 garage and install a gravel driveway, as described and presented to the IWWC and filed with the Land Use office with drawings attached; with the following conditions: expiration of statutory appeal period; notify the IW enforcement officer upon starting the work and with proper erosion and sedimentation controls per DEEP publication. Motion carried unanimously.

Receipt of Permit Application #0805-18, Lyman Farm, Inc.

Attorney John Corona was present on behalf of the applicant with Kathleen Connolly, a landscape designer working for Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District. The purpose of the application is to enhance a wetland area and mitigate some circumstances that exist at the pond at the Apple Barrel. He reviewed the location of the pond at the Apple Barrel and explained that they are proposing to do work at either end of the pond. The Lyman Farm received a grant from the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District to mitigate the effect of the geese and help with the ongoing erosion and compaction at the other end of the pond.

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At this point, Kathy Connolly introduced herself and explained that she was present on behalf of the Conservation District and is being paid by the grant. The two primary purposes of the grant are the goose deterrence and protecting the pond from run-off. She explained that when lawn is highly compacted, it can become as impermeable as gravel cover. Ms. Connolly commented that the pond is heavily vegetated on three sides, but the west side has a very large lawn area (32,000 square feet). The other impact on the pond is the geese who like to have 30 to 50 feet of clear runway ahead of them and they love places where they can go in the water and then come up to nibble insects. She explained that there are ways to make the area less friendly to the geese.

The proposal is to use coir logs which are made of ground coconut shells that come from Bangladesh and India. Ms. Connolly explained that after the coconuts are harvested and the milk and fruit removed, they put them through shredders and spread them out in fields to bake in the sun for two to three months. It is then spun into a variety of products, including coir logs and are fumigated. These logs are placed one-third to one-half down into the soil. The two standard sizes are 12" or 22" wide.

Coir logs are very light in weight, but a small excavator will be necessary to install a long line of them. They intend to do as little excavation as possible. A line of coir about 100 feet long will be placed uphill of the west edge where ponding has started to occur and plant native species of trees on either side. They are also proposing to install another set of coir logs down the hill about 40 feet towards the pond's edge and about 12 to 18 inches above the pond's edge. They will most likely be 12" logs near the pond and 22" logs set up the hill. Coir logs last for about five to 10 years, but the roots of the nearby plants grow well in the logs. They propose to plant a selection of shrubs and ornamental grasses by the logs near the pond's edge. Ornamental grasses can get roots between 6 and 18 feet deep. The application includes the proposed plantings as well as an inventory of the native plants that they will try very hard not to interrupt.

The proposed activity on the other side of the pond is very similar, but with only one line of coir logs, about 215 feet long. It will be about 18 inches above the water and will have shrubs planted throughout. They are also proposing to install a flowering meadow.

The deepest digging may be up to a foot to set some of the larger shrubs and maybe 2 feet deep for some of the root balls of the trees. There are no plans for fertilizers or any permanent irrigation system. Watering will be only for the establishment period (the first 18 months). Ms. Connolly anticipates this to be a very successful planting and believes that it will help the pond tremendously. As a result, the pond will be completely surrounded by vegetation with a lot fewer weeds. They also plan to install some in-water vegetation to help process nutrients.

Randy Bernotas asked if it would be safe to assume that Lyman's would stop selling corn for the geese and Attorney Corona stated that that is an ongoing discussion. It has become a longstanding tradition and there are a lot of the public that like to feed the geese. Kathy Connolly stated that there will be some educational signage included at the two areas.

Ms. Connolly added that Lyman Farm uses the services of All Habitat to work in and around the pond for weed management. There are a number of things that will be done to remove the weeds and they will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Some weeds can be pulled or scalped and she hoped that very few herbicides will be used.

Ms. Connolly explained that the name of the grant is the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in Connecticut through the Clean Water Act section 319. Irene Angiletta asked why the DEEP was interested in offering this grant to Lyman Farm and Ms. Connolly explained that there were detectable pollutants, the most profound of which is fecal matter that can be traced back to geese.

It was agreed to hold off voting on this permit application until September's meeting due to the appeals period.

#### Enforcement Report and Enforcement Officer's Report

Randy Bernotas received a complaint that a pile of gravel was dumped in the backyard at 25 Cherry Hill Road. He spoke with the property owner and was told that it would only be used in the front of the property.

While working with Brian Curtis on final inspections of both Ross Farms and Lakeview Estates, they have found invasives beginning to show up in the retention basins and wetland areas and the question is who would be responsible to eliminate them. The property owner at Lakeview Estates near the retention pond likes to see the invasives there, but it was explained that they have to go.

Mr. Bernotas also did a preliminary site visit at the Cooper-Atkins property on Reeds Gap Road at the request of Ed Bailey to determine if an expansion can be realized without encroaching on flagged wetlands on the property. No formalized site plan has been presented. Mr. Bernotas felt that wetland encroachment would not be a problem, but a site plan would be needed to confirm that.

Randy Bernotas also reported that the creation of a parking area at the Ellen Doyle Skating Rink may be moving forward. He will work with Parks and Recreation. Rebecca Adams stated that they found out that it did not need Army Corps approval at all. Mr. Bernotas recommended that they try to get the drainage ditch cleaned out.

#### Approval of Minutes

Irene Angiletta made a motion, seconded by Robert Veeley, to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2018, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Irene Angiletta made a motion, seconded by Jim Brown, to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2018, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Matters or business raised at previous meetings or on previous agendas

Rebecca Adams explained that anything about fines and fees would have to be enacted by an ordinance. Irene Angiletta asked why the regulations state that they can make changes to the regulations through a public hearing. Ms. Adams explained that that is true, but the statute specifically requires a municipal ordinance for levying fines and fees as well.

Ms. Adams went on to review that Irene Angiletta had prepared some language compiled from both Rocky Hill and Branford. Ms. Angiletta reviewed that it would begin with an initial and if that was

heeded, there would be no need for further process. If the initial notice is not heeded, it would move to a violation. If they fail to respond to a second violation, that's when fines would levied.

Rebecca Adams would like to pass this information along to Attorney Willis and then ask Ed Bailey to send it to the Town Counsel as well and the members agreed. Linda Li asked about the process and Ms. Adams explained that the agency can hold a public hearing to adopt the policy in the Wetlands regulations, but it cannot be enforced until it is adopted as an ordinance at a town meeting.

Robert Veeley asked where the money would go and it was explained that it would go into the town's general fund. Jim Brown asked if they were technically an agency or a commission and Ms. Adams felt that they are the same thing, but the language should be made clear.

Members' Suggestions for Matters for Addition to the Current Agenda or for Discussion and Inclusion on Future Agendas

None.

Adjournment

Jim Brown made a motion, seconded by Robert Veeley, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Debi Waz*

Debi Waz  
Alwaz First