

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

Minutes of the December 19, 2018 Regular Meeting

Rebecca Adams, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Attendance:

Members

Alternates

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

A=Absent

X=Present

Charles Zieminski was seated on the Commission.

Amendments to the Agenda

None.

Public Comment

Giuseppe DiPietro, a resident of Ross Farms Road, reminded the board that they had attended the last meeting and were there tonight to get an update on the road. He expected that the road would be handed over to the association soon and they wanted to understand what their responsibilities are as residents of the community with regard to the retention ponds and the open space.

Discussion and review of the application to modify the IWWC permit issued to Michael Carusone on April 20, 2016, for demolition and construction of a residence limited to the same footprint as the original structure and with the same outside dimensions, to add structures, already constructed but not included in the current permit, to mitigate the additional discharge and runoff into Lake Beseck due to the increase of impervious surface, Michael Carusone, 255 Baileyville Road

Attorney Frank Cathcart, representing the applicant, explained that he had dropped off a package a couple of months ago. Rebecca Adams stated that they had reviewed that information and passed it along to Brian Curtis for his review. Attorney Cathcart has had several conversations with Attorney Matt Willis and that Jim Jones, the engineer, has also worked directly with Brian Curtis. Rebecca Adams also explained that the Commission will be scheduling a public hearing on this issue but did want to speak to the applicant before that. Ms. Adams also thanked Mr. Carusone for providing all of the information.

Attorney Cathcart reviewed that Mr. Jones had prepared an initial survey and corresponded with the Town Engineer. Brian Curtis had reviewed the initial survey and posed some questions. Subsequently, another survey was generated as a result of Mr. Curtis' review and the study which had been prepared by Cole & Son for Mr. Jones. The report had posed two possibilities for the resolution of the retention of any additional run-off from the increased impervious surface, one being a 900-gallon dry well and the other two units of a Cultec storm water system. The Cultec system is depicted on the survey, including the elevations, placement of the retention system, the water table, the underlayment and the covering of the system. Attorney Cathcart believes that Brian Curtis then spoke with Mr. Jones and had no concerns.

Brian Curtis stated that the engineer had designed the system to store water from run-off for the increased impervious area and he had asked for soils information in the specific area which the engineer did not have. Mr. Jones went out and dug a test hole and identified the soil profile, the percolation rate and the depth of the groundwater in the middle of October. As a result of that, the engineer modified the design and raised the elevation of the system because it would have been too deep relative to groundwater. Plastic chambers were selected and the current design puts the bottom of the system a little bit more than a foot above the high water table. Mr. Curtis felt that that was satisfactory. Roof leaders would then have to direct water over to the structure. The revised drawings are dated October 19, 2018.

Rebecca Adams commented that she is very pleased with the information that has been provided. Attorney Cathcart hoped that the Commission felt that there would be no adverse impact.

Jim Brown asked how long the plastic units would last and Attorney Cathcart did not ask about the life span of the product. Brian Curtis felt it would be a very long period of time and explained that storm drains are now being made out of the same material.

It was then agreed to schedule the public hearing for the next meeting to be held in January, 2019. Both Brian Curtis and Attorney Matt Willis will be at the hearing. Attorney Cathcart asked the Commission to let him know if any further information is required.

Irene Angilletta made a motion, seconded by Rob Poturnicki, to schedule a public hearing for January 16, 2019 for the application to modify the IWWC permit issued to Michael Carusone. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff report and discussion of the final inspection and permit compliance checklist for Lovley Development “Ross Farms”

Randy Bernotas stated that Brian Curtis had done a formal inspection of the remaining item on the punch list and a tree had to be removed from one of the retention ponds. They have started the eradication of Japanese knotweed, but that will take longer than a year. Mr. Bernotas has proposed that the Board of Selectmen maintain \$1,000 per year from the bond until the eradication is complete. They have taken care of everything else.

Mr. Bernotas also explained that the Town will have to maintain the retention ponds. They will have to inspect them and if there is any kind of silt infiltration, that will have to be removed. Cattails may have to be dealt with there as well as Lakeside Estates. Some of the landowners like the looks of the cattails and Mr. Bernotas explained that they are not as invasive as phragmites, but they will have to be managed.

Rebecca Adams has spoken to Matt Willis and Ed Bailey and everyone agrees that it will be the town’s responsibility to maintain the function of the pond, which does include any cattails, etc. The homeowners are not in the position to be the managers of retention ponds.

There was some discussion about whether Lovley Development would actually come back to eradicate the Japanese knotweed and it was suggested that a conversation be held with them about that. Randy Bernotas will also talk to John Wyskiel about this.

Enforcement Officer’s Report

Randy Bernotas reported that Manny Augeri has a pond on his property on Peters Lane with a driveway that goes across the stream. He would like to clean out both sides of the drainage pipe and Mr. Bernotas gave him the okay to do that.

Update on IWWC regulations violation process and fine ordinance

Rebecca Adams reported that the Town Attorney has made just a few changes to what was proposed and she will meet with Ed Bailey after the holidays.

Chair’s Report

Rebecca Adams had nothing else to report.

Approval of Minutes

Rob Poturnicki made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Adams, to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2018, as presented. Motion carried, with Jim Brown and Charlie Zieminski abstaining.

Public Comment

Rebecca Adams added public comment to the agenda at this point so that the residents of Ross Farms could speak. One gentleman asked if the Japanese knotweed is foreign to the area and Jim Brown stated that it was an invader. Brian Curtis confirmed that it is an invasive species and it is not clear where it

came from. Mr. Curtis reiterated that they are working to eradicate it and explained that it can always be mowed which will be done by the town. The homeowners explained that they have an association which is responsible for maintenance of the fence. The plan will be for Lovley Development to post the bond and then the road will be accepted by the town. Brian Curtis is not concerned about the Roundup getting into the wetlands.

Rebecca Adams reviewed that the town has a conservation easement on the property and will be responsible for maintaining the retention ponds. A homeowner asked who is responsible if a child wanders into the retention pond and gets hurt and Ms. Adams stated that she cannot answer that question. She suggested that the homeowners' association has a conversation with the town attorney about that.

Approval of 2019 Meeting Dates

Rob Poturnicki made a motion, seconded by Bob Veeley, to approve the 2019 meeting dates, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Matters or business raised at previous meetings or on previous agendas

None.

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

Marianne Corona reminded everyone that she represents the Wetlands commission on the Soil and Water Conservation District. They have been working at the pond at Lymans and have discovered that Lymans has a septic issue. She then reviewed the Coginchaug watershed area. Mrs. Corona also represents Middlesex County on the CACIWC board. She offered to get information on cattails, knotweed and conservation easements.

Mrs. Corona also emphasized how important the wetland review area and that it is a minimum of 100 feet.

Rob Poturnicki left the meeting at this point.

Marianne Corona asked if the Commission is reporting to DEEP as they are supposed to and Rebecca Adams confirmed that they are. Mrs. Corona asked that that information be sent out to the Commission members.

Mrs. Corona also attended the Planning and Zoning meeting last week and stated that they passed something that had to do with an upland review area. She encouraged Rebecca Adams to take a look at that. Mrs. Corona referred to 600 campsites that were approved at Powder Ridge which would make a big difference in the watershed. Rebecca Adams stated that she will add an agenda item for updates from Mrs. Corona at future meetings.

Adjournment

Jim Brown made a motion, seconded by Bob Veeley, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

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