

TOWN OF COLUMBIA
INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSE COMMISSION
Beckish Senior Center
188 Route 66, Columbia, CT
Wednesday, October 19, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Chairman/John Allen, Vice-Chair/Tom Archambault, Ron Wikholm, William Ross

Members Excused: Ian Dann, Tip Garritt, Carol Ann Jaswinski

Staff Present: Wetlands Agent/John Valente, Board Clerk/Terri Lasota

Others present: Chris Ramm of Columbia Town Center LLC, Ed Pelletier and Rick Zuluck, Soil Scientist, Gerry Hardisty of Civil Engineering Services, LLC

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Roll Call-Seat Alternates: No alternates

Audience of Citizens: None

SUSPEND REGULAR MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING

IWW-1617-05: Application of Chris Ramm of Columbia Town Center LLC to construct (3) two-family dwellings for the 55 and over community at Old Willimantic Road / SNET#2174, Map 18, Lot 67, Columbia, CT. Activity in Wetlands 0.01 acres, activity in Upland Review Area 3.5 acres.

Chairman John Allen read the application into record, Ed Pelletier of Datum Engineering gave a presentation explaining the drainage and basin, and the effects, if any, on the wetlands. Gerry Hardisty of Civil Engineering Services LLC also spoke regarding the drainage area, noting that the system is designed for a "hundred year storm" and the basin is oversized to meet or exceed conditions, also allows for water quality volume and allowing for the water to infiltrate.

William Ross and Ed Pelletier discussed the maintained lawn area between the building and the wetlands, Ed Pelletier noted that the septic will be located in the lawn area, also most of the wooded area would remain wooded, and any wooded area disturbed would be returned to trees.

Rick Zulick, Soil Scientist for Datum Engineering talked about the wetland soils and movement of the storm water through the wetland system. John Valente asked Rick Z. to demonstrate where the storm water goes, who explained the basin and it's position, and explained how the basin becomes a pond allowing the water to refilter before draining into the wetlands. The basin is designed as a "dry basin" holding water for only a short period of time. Rick and John then discussed surface area and erosion concerns.

William Ross, Gerry Hardisty, and Ed Pelletier talked about the detention pond, the E&S plan, stockpiles, and the disturbance in and between stockpile sites.

Tom Archambault inquired about the basin outlet pipe clogging and Ed Pelletier assured that it was easy to clean.

John Valente discussed the submitted plans and Mr. Fenton (Town Engineer) who would review and have questions or comments for Gerry Hardisty regarding the plan revisions by next week. The hope is that things would be finalized at least a week before the next scheduled IWWC meeting where the public hearing would be continued so additional testimony could be presented and the Commission could be ready to make a decision. John Valente noted that some of Mr. Fenton's concerns were regarding the width of the flat area on top of the detention area, swale, and second water diversion into basin for additional treatment.

Gerry Hardisty talked about the water channeled through the basin and detention, slowing the water and swale to prevent erosion. Jon Valente, Gerry Hardisty, and John Allen discussed the hay fields and the absorption rate of hay vs. grass.

John Valente commented that for site protection the proposed construction sequence has to be followed, and that the engineer will need to be on site during certain points of construction to certify that the correct materials and elevations for basin construction are being used. The plans need to reflect an inspection schedule and construction sequence being specific that these items are the first phases of construction before any other activity takes place.

Tom Archambault verified with Gerry Hardisty that there was a basin maintenance schedule in place.

John Allen opened the floor for public comments at 7:49 p.m..

Jessica DeBlois of 11 Szegda Road, Columbia CT stated that her property already has a water runoff and sediment issue, and asked what plan was in place to prevent making the existing problem worse. Ed Pelletier replied that nothing would currently affect their issue. Brian DeBlois inquired about the blasting and effects on the wells and ground water that aquifers underground in the area and any protection that would be in place. Ed Pelletier said that the blasting companies have insurance that would protect from any possible blasting damage.

Rick Zulick showed Jessica and Brian DeBlois that the runoff is west of their property.

The Public Hearing is to resume on November 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. during the Regular IWWC Meeting.

Adjournment:

William Ross **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:55pm.

Tom Archambault **SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0**

Respectfully Submitted by Terri Lasota, Board Clerk