

TOWN OF COLUMBIA
INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND MOTIONS
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT
Monday, June 1, 2015– 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman John Allen (arrived 7:04 p.m.), Vice -Chair Tom Archambault, Secretary Ron Wikholm, Carol Ann Jaswinski, William Ross, and Ian Dann

Members Excused: Tip Garritt

Staff Present: Wetlands Agent John Valente and Board Clerk Linda McDonald

Others Present: Kevin McKnerney and others

Call to Order: T. Archambault called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: There was a quorum.

Changes/Additions to the Agenda: There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Audience of Citizens: No audience of citizens.

1. Old Business

2. New Business:

2.1 Election of Officers

C. Jaswinski MOVED TO nominate John Allen as IWWC Chair, Tom Archambault as IWWC Vice-Chair and Ron Wikholm as IWWC Secretary for calendar year 2015. W. Ross SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0. There were no other nominations.

C. Jaswinski MOVED TO ELECT John Allen as IWWC Chair, Tom Archambault as IWWC Vice-Chair and Ron Wikholm as IWWC Secretary for calendar year 2015. W. Ross SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

2.2 IWW-1415-20: Receive application of Rob Hellstrom Land Surveying LLC for construction of driveway within 100 feet of wetlands on proposed subdivision on property at 208 Route 66, Columbia, CT, Assessor's map 24, lot 30, property of June Squier.

I. Dann MOVED to receive the application of Rob Hellstrom Land Surveying LLC for construction of driveway within 100 feet of wetlands on proposed subdivision on property at 208 Route 66, Columbia, CT, Assessor's map 24, lot 30, property of June Squier. W. Ross SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

J. Valente explained this is a two lot subdivision on the Squier property which is a large hayfield past Wickford Road to the left where CL&P lines go through. There are not a lot of wetlands associated with this site, but a lot of the soils are Woodbridge soils and remain fairly wet during early spring. Some runoff does find its way onto neighboring properties, non-wetland related

for the most part. The proposed driveway comes off the cul-de-sac or intersection of Wickford and Tunxis Roads. Historically there has been water coming through that area from the fields and woods up above the road. Some accommodations were made during construction of the Wickford Subdivision to pick up an existing farm swale, improve it, and provide a settling basin discharges into the catch basin at the road.

J. Valente stated that this application has been brought to the Commission because the driveway will be within 30 feet of wetlands and it is a subdivision. He said there is a minimal amount of grading associated with the driveway and he would recommend that the engineer look at existing drainage and provide some positive encouragement for that water to stay off the proposed driveway, to work its way around the driveway and into the existing system. J. Valente said he would ask the engineer if indeed more water would be put into the existing system then is already going there given the driveway location, he will either have to let the additional water flow over the driveway or encourage it to stay out of the driveway and carry it all the way to the side of the driveway and encourage it to go into the system.

The consensus of the Commission is to direct J. Valente to ask the engineer for (1) more detail (one foot contours and grades) for the driveway as it makes its way up to the house site as there are no proposed contours on the site plan for the driveway from the house to where it makes a sweeping turn and (2) to inquire if there has been consideration for an alternative access to the site. J. Valente said since most of the drainage swale is on the neighbor's property and that is not indicated on the plan, he will ask for an enlargement of that section of the plan to show how the water will be carried safely to the existing sediment pool.

W. Ross said the Commission would like to see where the driveway water is going when it gets to the shoulder, where it is diverted and how it is pitched.

A site walk was scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 6:35 p.m.

- 2.3 IWW-1415-21:** Receive application of Kevin McKnerney to fill in wetlands behind house to increase lawn area at 65 Erdoni Road, Columbia, CT, Assessor's map 15, lot 6 and assessor's map 14, lot 8 in the LAR zone.

J. Valente reported that he noticed activity of disturbance and grading (lawn expansion) in the wetlands at the property and sent a cease and desist letter to the property owners to stop the activity. The property owners then submitted the wetlands application for approval to complete the project. A site plan from the 1980's was scaled to show the work proposed.

K. McKnerney said the area behind the house was extremely wet and would seep into the basement. A stone wall behind the house has been dismantled.

W. Ross MOVED to receive the application of Kevin McKnerney to fill in wetlands behind house to increase lawn area at 65 Erdoni Road, Columbia, CT, Assessor's map 15, lot 6 and assessor's map 14, lot 8 in the LAR zone. R. Wikholm SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

A site walk was scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

3. Audience of Citizens

4. **Commission Open Discussion:** J. Valente reported on the CL&P interstate reliability project and vernal pools.
5. **Administrative Report**
- 5.1 **IWW-1415-15:** Administrative Approval to Stephen Cooke to rebuild dock from 80 feet to 100 feet in Columbia Lake at 112 Route 87, Columbia, CT.
- 5.2 **IWW-1415-16:** Administrative Approval to Nelisa and Richard Reagan to construct a new single family dwelling in the upland review area at 4 Szegda Road, Columbia, CT, Assessor's map 23, lot 43
- 5.3 **IWW-1415-17:** Administrative Approval to James Blair to add a maximum of 2" stone veneer to existing concrete lake wall in the upland review area at 43 Sleepy Hollow Road, Columbia, CT, Assessor's map 16B, lot 25
- 5.4 **IWW-1415-19:** Administrative Approval to Daryl Parker and Midstate Excavation, Glenn Postemski for construction of detention area and grading within 100 feet of wetlands, parking of vehicles and storage of landscape material at 168A Route 66 East, Columbia, CT.
- 5.5 **Wetland Buffer Restriction Declaration for Kurt Lessenger for property on Doubleday Road, Columbia, CT**
- 5.6 **Record drawing from Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates Inc for construction per CTDEEP Dam Construction Permit no. DS-201303330, General Condition 3.D**
- 5.7 **Rehabilitation of Pucker Street Bridge Cofferdam Plan Review: J. Valente will visit the site.**

J. Valente reported on wetlands activities in town: a single family dwelling on property on Pine Street, installation of shed on town property at the town beach requiring nutrient allocation worksheet and installation of infiltration system with overflow to the catch basin. J. Valente reported that the town engineer will do study of re-grading the beach area to help eliminate erosion from wave action.

J. Valente said he did workshops with other towns' wetlands commissions on reading site plans. He asked for suggestions for a training workshop for the Commission. W. Ross asked if state regulations cover tree cutting (logging) in a review area. J. Valente said loggers are exempt from wetlands regulations unless they are filling wetlands. W. Ross clarified his question to cover the situation where a private company clears trees without stump removal on a homeowner's property. Clear cutting is not allowed in wetlands by state statute. If the tree cutting activity could be shown to affect or impact the wetlands, the activity could be regulated by the town in that situation. Discussion followed.

6. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2015 and Special Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2015:**

W. Ross MOVED to APPROVE the minutes of January 5, 2015 as presented. C. Jaswinski SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:2 with R. Wikholm and I. Dann abstaining.

W. Ross MOVED to APPROVE the minutes of February 17, 2015 as presented. C. Jaswinski SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:1 with I. Dann abstaining.

7. **Correspondence:**

8. **Adjournment:** W. Ross MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:15 p.m. C. Jaswinski SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald

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