

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION**

Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices

323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Thursday, January 4, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Members Present: Chairman John Allen, Vice Chair Jon Dilworth, Secretary Ron Wikholm, Mary Roickle

Members Excused: Tip Garritt, Ian Dann

Staff Present: Wetlands Agent Isabelle Kisluk, Board Clerk Mary Kay Hyman

Others Present: William Fochi, Jim Blair

1. Call to Order: J. Allen called the meeting to order at **7:02 PM**.

2. Roll Call-Seat Alternates: None to be seated

3. Additions/Changes in order of Agenda:

I Kisluk requested to add to the agenda, item number 6.4 under New Business:

IWWC-2324-24: Application of: William Fochi to Repair Lake Wall with Existing Rock and Concrete at 62 Lake Road.

I Kisluk requested to add to the agenda, item number 6.5 under New Business:

IWWC-2324-25: Application of: Christopher Ramm to Reconstruct a Pond at 39 Szegda Road.

4. Communications/Correspondence: None

5. Audience of Citizens: None

6. New Business:

6.1 Election of Officers

6.1.1 Election of Jon Dilworth for Vice President

R. Wikholm **NOMINATED** Jon Dilworth as Vice Chair, J. Allen **SECOND**.

There were no other nominations.

MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

6.2 IWWC-2324-22: Application of: Jim Blair of Jim Blair Landscape and Design, LLC to Repair Lake Wall at 46 Erdoni Road.

I Kisluk stated this is a standard repair to the lake wall with a standard entry way and procedures.

J. Blair stated the stones in the wall are loose and one section may need additional grinding, with repointing. It is approximately a one or two day job by hand, no machinery is needed. Wheel Barrels will be brought in to mix cement.

J. Allen asked I. Kisluk if a site walk was necessary. I Kisluk stated she would like to schedule a special meeting site walk with Possible Action, after the 14-day waiting period, in order to potentially move the process along for work to begin in a timely manner.

M. Roickle suggested that LMAC could attend the site walk and do the same.

M. Roickle **MOVED** to **ACCEPT Application of:** Jim Blair of Jim Blair Landscape and Design, LLC to Repair Lake Wall at 46 Erdoni Road. J. Dilworth **SECONDED**. MOTION CARRIED **4:0:0**

The Commission scheduled a Site Walk for 46 Erdoni Road on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

6.3 IWWC-2324-23: Application of: Jim Blair of Jim Blair Landscape and Design, LLC to Veneer Lake Wall and Replace Existing Patio with a Permeable Paver Patio at 166 Route 87.

J. Blair stated the existing concrete wall is tied to the neighbor's property and the owner prefers repairing the wall vs replacement. He stated there are some cracks that they will repair behind the wall and will pin angle iron on the face of the wall to hang the veneer on. The patio is most of the work. They will use the standard minimum of 1 foot of crushed stone base and pavers with permeable joints. A mini excavator will be used to bring material in and out. He stated there is a septic tank at the corner of the home, which may cause them to go onto the neighboring property. He stated he knows the neighbor Michael Coster and will communicate with him. He stated they will use silt fencing to manage run off as well as mats. He stated he will try not to use a gravel path, but it may be necessary if the property is too wet.

J. Dilworth **MOVED** to **ACCEPT Application of:** Jim Blair of Jim Blair Landscape and Design, LLC to Veneer Lake Wall and Replace Existing Patio with a Permeable Paver Patio at 166 Route 87. R. Dilworth **SECONDED**, M. Roickle **ABSTAINED**. MOTION CARRIED **3:0:1**

The Commission scheduled a Site Walk for 166 Rte. 87 on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 9:30 AM.

6.4 IWWC-2324-24: Application of: William Fochi to Repair Lake Wall with Existing Rock and Concrete at 62 Lake Road.

I Kisluk stated this application is to repair a Lake Wall and has been approved by LMAC already. She stated there will not be any heavy equipment used and it is similar to 166 rte. 87 in that localized repairs are needed to maintain the wall. She stated that some of the wall was washed out due to the recent heavy rainfall as well as some trees that have grown and undermined the wall. She stated she will send out a copy of the maps to the Commission.

J. Dilworth **MOVED** to **ACCEPT Application of:** William Fochi to Repair Lake Wall with Existing Rock and Concrete at 62 Lake Road. R. Dilworth **SECONDED**, M. Roickle **ABSTAINED**. MOTION CARRIED **3:0:1**

The Commission will hold a Site Walk for this application on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

Order of Site Walks subject to change pending Commission Member availability and best route. An Agenda will be posted prior to the day of the Site Walks.

6.5 IWWC-2324-25: Application of: Christopher Ramm to Reconstruct a Pond at 39 Szegda Road.

I Kisluk stated that this application is for a Jurisdictional Ruling for an existing farm pond that has been filling in due to the nature of the pond. She stated the owners would like to drain the pond through a natural spill way, clean it out and refill the pond, adding an aerator. The material removed from the pond will be used elsewhere on the property for crops.

The Commission decided this Application will be approved Administratively.

J. Dilworth **MOVED** to **APPROVE**, **IWWC-2324-25:** Application of: Christopher Ramm to Reconstruct a Pond at 39 Szegda Road as an **Administrative Approval**. M. Roickle **SECONDED**. **MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.**

I Kisluk then read the exemptions of section 4.1a of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations into the record for the Commission. I Kisluk stated that given the fact the property is a farm, it is for the Commission to decide if this Application is an Exemption or if a Permit is required.

J. Allen asked if there are animals on the farm.

I Kisluk stated there is a history of cows on the farm and the pond was first created in connection to the farm.

J. Allen stated, as voted, that the Application can be handled as an Administrative Approval.

7. Old Business:

7.1 Show Cause Hearing: Order to Cease & Correct activity at 18 Lakeview Park West

J. Allen asked if I. Kisluk has had contact with the homeowner.

I Kisluk stated she would like to close this violation out with a vote this evening. She stated she received notification that the homeowner was back out on the lakebed with an excavator. She stated she had contact with the homeowner that evening and he was under the impression, based on his interpretation of the letter, that he needed to remove the block that remained on the lakebed. I. Kisluk stated that she explained to the homeowner that the letter stated the homeowner was to attend a meeting and a decision would be made then as to how to handle the removal of the concrete block from the lakebed. She then informed the owner that the Commission's concern is with the damage the equipment does to the lakebed, such as ruts etc. The homeowner agreed to go back onto the lakebed the next day to rake out and smooth out the ruts. She stated she then visited the site and confirmed that the repairs had been made. She

informed the homeowner that in the future this type of work does require a permit and she will be following up with written documentation to the homeowner.

J. Allen asked if there is a need for an application at this time.

I Kisluk state that after discussion with legal counsel the best practice is remediation of the violation and there is no need for a permit after the fact. Again, she stated she did make it clear to the homeowner that any work to the lake wall or stairs will need to go through the Commission.

I Kisluk asked that the Commission officially vote to uphold or to resolve the cease and assist.

M. Roickle then asked if there is a penalty for the violation.

I Kisluk stated that there is no current method with IWWC violations. She stated it could be brought to court but that would be time consuming and an expense to the town and the best action at this point since the violation has been remediated, is to work with the resident moving forward.

J. Allen asked that I. Kisluk keep an eye on the situation and report back at the next meeting.

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

8.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2023

R. Wikholm **MOVED** to **APPROVE** the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2023. J. Dilworth **SECONDED**. MOTION CARRIED **4:0:0**

9. Audience of Citizens: None

10. Commission Open Discussion: None

11. Administrative Reports:

11.1 IWWC-2324-20: Administrative Approval: Application of Rissell and Joan Inzinga to Repair a Crack and Hole in Step between 41 and 43 Sleepy Hollow Rd.

I Kisluk stated the homeowner has a right of way on Sleepy Hollow Road that goes down to the lake. The right of way has steps that go into the lake. The steps had a minor crack that was above the high-water mark. They had a stone mason come in to make the repair, which took approximately one day. The Application was Administratively Approved by LMAC as well.

12. Adjournment:

J. Dilworth **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the meeting at **7:41** PM. M. Roickle **SECONDED**. MOTION CARRIED **4:0:0**

Respectfully submitted by Mary Kay Hyman, Board Clerk
Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for approvals and/or corrections hereto.