

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

Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices

323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Monday, March 4, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

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

Members Excused: Ian Dann

Staff Present: Wetlands Agent Isabelle Kisluk, First Selectman Steve Everett, Public Works Director Beth Lunt, Board Clerk Mary Kay Hyman

Others Present: None

**1. Call to Order:** J. Allen called the meeting to order at **7:01 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 **6.1** under New Business:

**IWWC-2324-29:** Application of: Town of Columbia to Install a Velocity Dissipation Device Constructed of Rip Rap at the Outlet of the Pipe at the Town Beach.

I Kisluk stated there has been significant erosion and heavy sediment build up at this outlet due to the heavy rainfall and water runoff the Town roads. The conditions are causing damage to neighboring properties and there is concern with a neighboring dock.

J. Allen asked if the Commission could act on this Application this evening.

I Kisluk stated this is a time sensitive matter and is at the Commissions discretion, but the public will need to be given 14 days to petition for a Public Hearing.

M. Roickle stated an Application will also need to be submitted to LMAC to be within Regulations. I Kisluk stated it would be submitted by the next LMAC meeting and M Roickle stated she would have the item added to the Agenda.

**4. Communications/Correspondence:** None

**5. Audience of Citizens:**

B. Lunt spoke regarding Application IWWC-2324-29. She stated they are under a time crunch and said that with the anticipated rainfall and the Lake already being at 4 foot, if they wait the

14 days it will not be possible for them to do the work, which would mean either drawing down the Lake again in April or postpone the work until fall, but that could compromise the integrity of the Egan's dock.

J. Allen asked if the Commission could make this an Administrative Approval.

I Kisluk stated this would be up to the Commission. She stated the way the Regulations are written this is allowable for work that is not done in Wetlands or a Watercourse, but most important is allowing the Public 14 days to request a Public Hearing for discussion. She stated the Commission has done so in the past for time sensitive work.

J. Allen stated he feels that the Commission should be able to vote to make the Application an Administrative Approval tonight.

S. Everett stated that this matter was brought to his attention last year and again this year with a plea from the Egan's regarding their concern with the drainage and the damage it is causing of about 6-8 inches of erosion at the pilons of their dock. He stated time is of the essence to divert this runoff. He agrees with B. Lunt's plan of action and feels it will not do any harm to the area. He stated he would appreciate it if the Commission could find the discretion to move the project along.

## **6. New Business:**

### **6.1 IWWC-2324-29: Application of: Town of Columbia to Install a Velocity Dissipation Device Constructed of Rip Rap at the Outlet of the Pipe at the Town Beach.**

T. Garritt stated this does not appear to be a big job. The Commission discussed the location of the work to be done. T. Garritt stated the Rip Rap will need to be large enough to reduce the velocity of the runoff. M. Roickle asked if this would be categorized as a Swale. B. Lunt stated it would be more of a Velocity Dissipator. She stated it is a halfmoon shape that would disburse the water. T. Garritt asked where the water is coming from and M. Roickle asked if the pipe is on Town property or the Egan's property. B. Lunt confirmed the runoff is coming from Henequin and Lake road and the pipe is located on the Egan's property. M. Roickle stated they were not able to access the pipe in the past.

I Kisluk shared photos of the area and confirmed the pipe is on the Egan's property. She stated there is not a formal deeded easement, only a prescriptive easement for the drainage into the Lake. She stated this situation has gotten worse with the increase in the rainfall. There is a large amount of sediment in this area, which is a cove.

J. Allen stated he feels the proposed plan is adequate.

M. Roickle stated these types of repairs have been done in the past and wants to know how much and how large a rock an engineer proposed to minimize long-term wash aways. She stated there are two other properties that have had Swales installed, one was paid for by the homeowner and both ended up in the Lake. She stated the one installed by the Botticello's and the Wheelers was done using rock greater than 12 inches and it has worked well. She stated there had been Administrators in the past that have requested the Commission install Swales that ended up in the Lake and she wants to insure this will not happen again.

T. Garritt agreed the proposed plan should be reviewed by an engineer.

M. Roickle responded she does not want to delay the job but wants to be sure it is done correctly both short and long term.

B. Lunt stated that if the Town needs to get an engineer, they will not have time to get the work done.

M. Roickle stated that they risk an unintended consequence if the work is not done correctly.

B. Lunt stated M. Roickle's point is valid and that the Dissipator will be placed on the Lakebed as the pipe ends at a headwall that will be submerged. She stated they will be using 16-inch Rip Rap but said if there is a large rain event on drawdown there could be movement.

M. Roickle asked if they would be layering small stone to large stone or would it be grouted.

B. Lunt stated it would not be grouted and would be all large stone compacted in.

J. Allen stated 20 cubic yards is a lot of stone and he feels it is sufficient.

M. Roickle stated this is the worse erosion ever on the Lake and there are several areas on the Lake that are a concern. She agrees this outlet is a large 24-inch pipe and with the amount of rainfall we have had the volume at this location is intense.

I Kisluk stated the Commission would need to discuss how Public Works would access the area and what would be feasible to complete the work. She stated this would require heavy machinery on the Lakebed with wood or some type of material to dissipate the load. M. Roickle agreed in the past either wood or corduroy had been used to protect the Lakebed and asked B. Lunt if that is what they would be using. B. Lunt stated they do not have that type of product, but could look into sourcing it out, but it may end up being plywood.

M. Roickle **MOVED** to **ACCEPT** the Application of: Town of Columbia to Install a Velocity Dissipation Device Constructed of Rip Rap at the Outlet of the Pipe at the Town Beach; J. Dilworth **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0**

M. Roickle **MOVED** to make the **APPROVAL** of the Application of: Town of Columbia to Install a Velocity Dissipation Device Constructed of Rip Rap at the Outlet of the Pipe at the Town Beach an **ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL**; R. Wikholm **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0**

## 7. Old Business:

**7.1 IWWC-2324-27:** Application of Ron Mike to Build a 1 Car Garage and Move a Driveway at 25 Lake Road.

I Kisluk stated there was a site walk early in the month. The Garage will be approximately 30 feet from the Wetlands on the northern portion of the property, which is surrounded by a Brook that runs under Lake road and drains into the Lake. The work requires a Nutrient Allocation Plan approval so additional drainage will be added to the site. The proposed plan will

be achieved primarily with roof runoff being infiltrated and captured on the left side of the house through mulched beds.

J. Allen feels the proposed plan is acceptable and asked if the NAP has been approved by I. Kisluk. I. Kisluk confirmed she has approved the proposed NAP.

T. Garritt asked if the Brook running by the property feeds the outlet onto the Egan's property. I. Kisluk stated she wasn't sure, as this is further up Lake road. She then stated if it does, with the NAP that will be put in place the runoff will be reduced from current conditions.

I Kisluk read the Summary Ruling with Conditions into the record.

T. Garritt **MOVED to APPROVE**, with conditions as read, Application of Ron Mike to Build a 1 Car Garage and Move a Driveway at 25 Lake Road; J. Dilworth **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0**

## **8. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

### **8.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2024**

J. Dilworth **MOVED to APPROVE** the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2024; R. Wikholm **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0**

### **8.2 Special Site Walk Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2024**

T. Garritt **MOVED to APPROVE** the Special Site Walk Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2024; J. Dilworth **SECONDED; M. Roickle ABSTAINED; MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1**

## **9. Audience of Citizens: None**

## **10. Commission Open Discussion: None**

## **11. Administrative Reports:**

**11.1 IWWC-2324-28:** Administrative Approval: Application of Joshua Hoffman for a 12 x 12 Screened in Porch Attached to an Existing Deck at 126 Rte. 87.

I Kisluk stated the Porch will extend off an existing deck, will be approx. 30 feet from the Lake and will be placed on piers. There will be little excavation required as there will not be a full foundation required. She stated to comply with the required Nutrient Allocation Plan there will be lawn to mulch beds with roof runoff being captured and infiltration through a stone dry well.

## **12. Adjournment:**

M. Roickle **MOVED to ADJOURN** the meeting at **7:34 PM**; J. Dilworth **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0**