

**INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 27, 2021 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
Council Chambers, Newtown Municipal Center  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT

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These Minutes are subject to Approval by the Inland Wetland Commission

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**Present:** Suzanne Guidera, Mike McCabe, Scott Jackson

**Staff Present:** Steve Hnatuk, Land Use Officer, Dawn Fried, Clerk

Mr. McCabe opened the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

**PENDING APPLICATION**

**Application IW #21-26 by Hans Barth**, property located on 254 Berkshire Road, for construction of a single family dwelling.

The applicant requested a continuation to the next regularly scheduled IWC meeting on November 10, 2021.

**Application IW #21-27 by Hawleyville Development LLC**, property located at 64 Barnabas Road, for construction of a 6,600 sq. ft. addition to an existing commercial building with related parking, driveway, and drainage facility improvements.

The applicant requested a continuation to the next regularly scheduled IWC meeting on November 10, 2021.

**Application IW #21-29 by A.C. Tree & Landscape, LLC**, property located at 28 High Bridge Road to remove debris and materials from wetland area.

Mr. Alan Ackman, A.C. Tree & Landscapes, LLC, Guilford, CT, spoke on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Ackman gave an overview of the project. Mr. Ackman explained the previous tenant dumped approximately 150-200 yards of debris on the edge of the wetlands.

Mr. Ackman is trying to remedy the situation by removing the debris.

Ms. Guidera questioned what kind of debris was dumped. Mr. Ackman stated stone, twine, asphalt and cement bags. Mr. Ackman stated he will be removing the larger materials on the surface with a small machine. After the larger debris is removed they will be removing the remaining material by hand with wheel barrows so as not to disturb the wetlands.

Mr. McCabe asked where the debris will be moved. Mr. Ackman stated the debris will be moved off-site.

Mr. McCabe asked about the overgrown invasives. Mr. Ackman stated yes, there are a lot of invasives. The knotweed is growing through the fence.

Due to lack of a quorum there was no vote taken.

**Application IW #21-30 by Altin Haxhaj**, property located at 12 Alberts Hill Road to fill upland area with top soil and remove fallen trees.

Mr. James Sipperly, certified soil scientist, Bozrah, CT, spoke on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Sipperly gave an overview of the project. Mr. Sipperly explained the applicant hired a company to remove trees that were damaged from a storm.

Mr. Sipperly described the property as having diverse vegetation and a functioning habitat for small mammals and amphibians.

Mr. Sipperly stated the wetlands still maintain its function and is stabilized.

Mr. McCabe was concerned that the wetlands were filled in by the driveway. Mr. McCabe asked how far back the wetlands were delineated. Mr. Sipperly stated the woodchips serve as the wetland delineation. There is no fill in the wetlands nor are there wetlands under the woodchips.

Mr. McCabe would like it noted in the report that the wood chip area was tested for wetlands.

There was a discussion on which plantings will be added to the edge of the woodchips. Also, the Commission questioned which plantings will be used to restore the upland buffer.

Mr. Hnatuk pulled up aerial photos to show the Commission. One photo showed the damaged property before the trees were cut and the other photo showed the trees cut down. After comparing the two photos but Mr. Hnatuk questioned why an abundance of trees were taken down inadvertently. Mr. Sipperly explained that he did not inspect the trees but usually after a storm many of the trees are damaged, the root systems are unstable and trees are leaning.

Mr. Sipperly stated that he would like to leave the cut logs in place because they serve as a great habitat for wildlife.

The Commission had concerns with the low lying parking areas. They asked Mr. Sipperly to clarify how he knows that there are no wetlands under the fill. Mr. Sipperly described his wetland delineation process by starting in the upland review area and digging holes every couple feet. Typically, Mr. Sipperly digs down 18 inches. If there is fill he digs down another 18 inches.

Ms. Guidera questioned who decided which trees needed to be cut. Mr. Sipperly stated an arborist determined the health of the trees.

Ms. Guidera questioned who brought in the fill. Mr. Sipperly stated the fill is screened top soil that goes to the edge of the wetlands and has no impact on the wetlands.

The Commission discussed adding plantings to the wood chip area. Mr. Sipperly agreed.

Mr. Sipperly stated there will be minor grading for the existing lawn.

Mr. Hnatuck and Mr. Sipperly discussed the original slab on the property. They agreed it was most likely used for a shed or a garage. It was noted that the slab indicated that the grade had not changed significantly over the years.

The Commission requested Mr. Sipperly to bring planting plans for the east side of the driveway to the next meeting. They can be hand drawn on a GIS map.

The Commission also requested a “no-mow zone” as a buffer area. Ms. Guidera suggested using small boulders so the next owner will also be aware of the “no-mow zone”.

The Commission continued this application to the next Inland Wetland meeting on November 10, 2021.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no additional business, Ms. Guidera moved to adjourn. Mr. Jackson seconded. All in favor. The meeting of October 27, 2021 was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Fried*