

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
MINUTES
Special Meeting
November 18, 2021 @ 7:30 p.m.
The Meeting Room, Community Center
8 Simpson Street, Newtown CT

These Minutes are subject to Approval by the Inland Wetland Commission

Present: Craig Ferris, Suzanne Guidera, Mike McCabe, Scott Jackson, Kendall Horch

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

Mr. Ferris opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

PENDING APPLICATION

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.

The Commission noted they had no new questions regarding the application, which was heard at the IWC Meeting on October 27, 2021.

Mr. McCabe moved to approve Application IW #21-29 by A.C. Tree & Landscape, LLC, property located at 28 High Bridge Road with standard conditions A, B, C, D, E, F, O & P. The approved plans are: "JMM Wetland Consulting Site Investigation, 40 High Bridge Road, Newtown, CT dated August 1, 2021, with supporting maps and photos dated received October 1, 2021." Ms. Horch seconded. All in favor.

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 a brief overview of the information that was requested from the IWC Commission at the last meeting.

The requested information:

- mitigation plan along the wood chip area and along the wetlands delineation on the east side of the driveway
- a rock barrier for future homeowners
- planting plan, which is still in the process of being digitized
- clarification of the findings of the wetland delineation at the toes of the slope and at the edge of woodchip areas

Mr. Sipperly stated that Mr. Haxhaj, the applicant, testified that he did not add fill to the wetlands.

Mr. Sipperly gave the Commission copies of a document titled "Clarification of Wetland Soil Criteria for Human-Altered and Human-Transported Soils in Connecticut", dated May 2015. He gave an overview of the document and its relevance to the project. He pointed out the section "Buried soils and their effect on taxonomic classification". Mr. Sipperly went on to explain his delineation process.

Mr. Ferris stated that there is standing water into the wood chips and standing water into the cut logs, which were left there. He stated that the water table is at least that high and it must go into the adjacent area and typically the water table will follow the contour.

Mr. Sipperly agreed that the logs are in the wetlands but he stated the logs should stay because they serve as a wildlife habitat. Mr. Ferris disagreed and stated the wetlands lost value because of the piles of cut logs and stumps and the logs do not create a wildlife habitat.

Mr. Ferris would like to see the wood chips removed or moved back on the left and right side of the driveway. Mr. Sipperly stated for the record he did not find wetlands under the woodchips and there is no fill in the wetlands.

Mr. Ferris asked if Mr. Sipperly encountered native soil?

Mr. Ferris would like the logs removed.

Mr. Sipperly stated they will move the wood chips back from the edge and will remove the logs. They will stake out an area with ribbon and get approval from the Land Use staff.

Ms. Guidera asked whether the plants will be added to the top of the slope.

The Commission continued this application to the next Inland Wetland meeting on December 8, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of October 13, 2021

The Commission found no substantive errors. Mr. McCabe moved to accept the minutes from October 13, 2021. Ms. Horch seconded. The minutes from October 13, 2021 were approved. Mr. Ferris abstained.

Regular Meeting of October 27, 2021

The Commission found no substantive errors. Mr. McCabe moved to accept the minutes from October 27, 2021. Ms. Guidera seconded. The minutes from October 27, 2021 were approved. Mr. Ferris and Ms. Horch abstained.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. McCabe stated he attended the CACIWC conference. The Commissioners agreed the legal section was the most preferred.

ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS

Mr. Basak-Smith, 71 Lakeview Terrace, presented a new application for acceptance and gave a brief overview to the Commisison. Mr. Basak-Smith will apply for a wetland application in the Land Use Agency. He would like for his application to be heard at the next Regular IWC Meeting on December 8, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business, Ms. Horch moved to adjourn. Mr. McCabe seconded. All in favor. The Special Meeting of November 17, 2021 was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Fried