

**INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

September 27, 2023 @ 7:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT

These Minutes are subject to approval by the Inland Wetlands Commission

Present: Sharon Salling, Scott Jackson, Mike McCabe, Suzanne Guidera, Kendall Horch, Stephanie Kurose

Staff Present: Steve Maguire, Deputy Director of Land Use, Kiana Maisonet, Land Use Enforcement Officer, Sebastian Velez, Land Use Enforcement Officer, Dawn Fried, Clerk

Ms. Salling opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

PENDING APPLICATION

IW #23-22 by Charles Toth, property located at 13 Point O' Rocks Road, to backfill a trench and create an accessway onto the property.

Mr. Maguire described the property as having historic logging roads which have impacted the wetlands.

Charles Toth, the applicant, 70 Seabreeze Avenue, Milford, CT, gave an overview of his plan. Mr. Toth stated he plans to renovate the trench and place logs on the softer soils. The goal is to cross the wetlands without disturbance. Mr. Toth will be removing the soil with a machine. He plans to replant with a native seed mixture. Mr. Toth asked the Commission whether he could have until next spring to complete the project. Mr. Toth would like to do it correctly and he would like time to collect the logs.

Mr. McCabe asked if the pipe will be removed. Mr. Toth responded yes the pipe will be removed now that the trench is being filled. There is no need for the pipe anymore.

Mr. Maguire explained the wetland report was submitted two years ago and the vegetative state was different at that time. The area has naturally revegetated since then.

Ms. Horch was concerned that filling the trench would create a mud pit. Ms. Horch suggested leaving the trench as is. The Commission discussed which option would create the least amount of wetland disturbance. The Commission agreed both options would work but ultimately decided to keep the original plan in place and backfill the trench. Ms. Salling stated it is a proven technique. Mr. Maguire stated due to its infrequent use it shouldn't be a cause of concern.

With no further discussion, Mr. McCabe moved to APPROVE Application IW# 23-22 by Charles Toth, property located at 13 Point O' Rocks Road, with standard conditions A, B, C, D, E, F, O and P. The approved plans are: "Compilation Plan and Property Line Change Map, Prepared for Charles Toth and Henry and Patricia Clark 13 and 25 Point O Rocks Road" dated received September 11, 2023 and all supporting documents including JMM Wetland Consulting Services Planting and Mitigation Plan, date June 8, 2021. Mr. Jackson seconded. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of September 13, 2023

Under "Other Business" change "regulations" to "administrative policies and procedures".

Mr. Jackson moved to accept the amended minutes from September 13, 2023. Mr. McCabe seconded. All in favor. Ms. Horch and Ms. Kurose abstained. The minutes from September 13, 2023 were approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting Time Change

Ms. Salling stated a recommendation was made at the last IWC meeting to change the start time of the meetings from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM. The Commission had a discussion and agreed the new start time will be 7:00 PM. The new time will begin in January of 2024.

Review of Administrative Policies and Procedures

Mr. Maguire gave an overview of the administrative policies and procedures that were discussed at the last meeting. He stated he would like to continue an open dialogue with the Commissioners. Ms. Salling stated she doesn't want the process to be complicated for the applicant. The Commission agreed it is best to keep it simple and easy to understand.

Mr. Maguire reviewed the wetlands database and the short and long form applications.

Ms. Salling and Ms. Guidera stated the administrative short form seems to be working well. The Commission concurred and would like the Land Use staff to continue using their discretion when deciding on each wetland application. The Commission believes it streamlines the process and expedites the work.

Mr. Maguire compared the current fee schedule with a newly drafted one. He also passed around fee schedules from surrounding towns. Mr. Maguire asked the Commission to take the draft fee schedule home for review. Ms. Salling stated the fees seem reasonable for Newtown. The Commission discussed adding "docks" to "decks and all other minor activities".

Mr. Maguire asked the Commission which topics they would like to discuss. Mr. Kurose stated "fines". Ms. Horch stated "long form application". Mr. McCabe stated "bond process".

Educational Opportunities for Commission

Mr. McCabe stated the CACIWC Conference should be coming in November. Mr. Maguire stated he will look into other workshops, as well. Ms. Salling suggested bringing in experts to speak on various topics. Some suggestions were to invite landscape architects, wetland scientists and engineers.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business, Mr. Jackson moved to adjourn. Ms. Kurose seconded. All in favor. The IWC Meeting of September 27, 2023 was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Fried