

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of September 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Website link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99062466256?pwd=ZzhoS1BTMW9tZmQ2aitlRS9xREd3UT09>

Call-in Number: 1 (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 990 6246 6256

Passcode: 743308

These Minutes are subject to Approval by the Inland Wetland Commission

Present: Sharon Salling, Mike McCabe, Suzanne Guidera, Craig Ferris, Kendall Horch

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

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

Pending Application

Application IW #20-20 by Donna and Roger Ball, property located at 20 Saw Mill Road for pond dredging.

Ms. Salling requested the applicant to give an overview of the application in response to the Commission's questions from the last meeting. Ms. Ball started by giving an overview of the newly submitted diagrams and maps. Ms. Ball pointed to the swath of land where the proposed lawn will be. Ms. Ball also gave clarification of an area of dense brush where the material will be dumped after the pond is dredged. Ms. Ball stated these new diagrams are more accurate measures of the area.

The Commission agreed the diagrams were helpful but they did not clearly delineate the wetland area or soil types.

Mr. Ferris gave a definition of hydric soils and explained that flood plains soils are different from wetland soils. Mr. Ferris also explained that a flood plain map can't be used in determining wetlands. Mr. Ferris also explained that flood plain soils are regulated by statutes as wetland soils, however flood plain soils do not exhibit the same characteristics.

Ms. Salling questioned the boundaries of the regulated area. Ms. Salling stated the only way to know the exact location of a regulated area is to defer to a wetland scientist. Mr. Hnatuk agreed that the wetland area is in close proximity to the dumping area and warrants a professional opinion by a wetland scientist.

Mr. Ferris questioned whether there were other options on the other side of the neighbor's property. Mr. Hnatuk showed an aerial view of the neighborhood and the Commission agreed other options were not feasible.

Ms. Ball questioned why dredged materials from the pond were not suitable for a wetland area considering it came from a wetland. Mr. Ferris responded that adding dredged materials to the existing area would change the ground elevation therefore, changing the hydrology and wetland functions.

Ms. Salling questioned whether hauling materials off-site was considered. Ms. Ball stated she reached out to Fred Hurley regarding hauling the fill off-site but did not get a response. There was a discussion on the best way to have the fill removed. Mr. Hnatuk will reach out to another wetland applicant who might be interested.

Ms. Salling reiterated that sampling the soils would be the only definitive way of knowing where the wetland boundaries are located.

Mr. Ferris questioned where the materials would end up if the dumping area was deemed to be a wetland.

The Commission agreed they cannot make a decision on the application due to insufficient information regarding the delineation of the wetland area or the soil types on the dumping area surrounding the brook. The Commission requested a wetland delineation from a soil scientist.

The Commission requested a continuation of Application IW #20-20.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for the Regular Meeting of August 26, 2020

The Commission had a discussion regarding amending the minutes and whether grammatical errors and typos are necessary to amend. Ms. Salling stated that the minutes are a reflection of the Commission and correcting grammatical errors and typos should be continued.

Mr. Ferris moved to accept the minutes from August 26, 2020. Mr. McCabe seconded. All in favor. The minutes from August 26, 2020 were approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Commission had a discussion on the annual conference hosted by the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC). Ms. Fried will send out the date and information for the conference once it's been set. The CACIWC will have a virtual teleconference with concurrent workshop sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business, Mr. McCabe moved to adjourn. Ms. Horch seconded. All in favor. The meeting of September 9, 2020 was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Fried