

INLAND WETLANDS
COMMISSION
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

MEETING MINUTES
ELECTRONIC ZOOM MEETING
May 13, 2021

PRESENT: Nick Lee (Chair), Claudia Avallone, Scott Fischer, Rick Stow, Penelope Koechl

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs; Keith Beaver, Didona Associates; Matthew Gallo, Property Owner; James McManus, JMM Wetland Consulting; William Kenny, William Kenny & Associates; Tim & Lindsey Geitz, Property Owners

ABSENT: Dr. Pinou & Mike Whitted (notified of intended absence)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lee called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and welcomed the new member, Penelope Koechl.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. WET#2654(S) BEHRENS – 220 Nod Hill Road – “corrective action” to address the unpermitted clearing of trees within a regulated area (cont.)

Mr. Conklin noted he spoke to SNEW’s attorney and there is progress with the forester. The information should be available for review by the next meeting.

With no further questions or discussion, the Public Hearing was continued.

B. WET#2686(S) GALLO – 47 Shadow Lane – proposed regrading of rear yard for recreation area (cont.)

Mr. Beaver noted they worked with Planning & Zoning to make sure they meet code on slopes prior to coming back before this Commission. He explained the revised plan which includes boulder walls.

Mr. Conklin suggested a weekly site monitor for soil and erosion measures due to close proximity of the wetland.

Mr. Stow MOVED to APPROVE WET#2686 with the normal Specials and the additional Special Condition that a 3rd Party Site Monitor perform weekly silt fence inspections, in addition

to after an ½ inch or greater rain event, SECONDED by Mr. Fischer and CARRIED 5-0-0 with all in favor.

IV. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE REVIEWED

- A. WET#2697(I) GRIFFIN – 67 Borglum Road** – “corrective action” to address unpermitted tree removal and wood pile and wood chips deposited within 100 ft. of a wetland

Mr. Kenny explained the violation and his proposal for rectifying the issue. Mr. Conklin noted the logs on site should be cleaned up in conjunction with the planting installation. He also noted the wetlands line is inaccurate and should be corrected for the file.

Mr. Fischer MOVED to APPROVE WET#2697 with normal Special Conditions and additional Special Condition to submit a revised site plan with modified wetland lines, SECONDED by Mr. Stow and CARRIED 5-0-0 with all in favor.

Mr. Fischer MOVED to LIFT the Cease & Decease Order for Griffin at 67 Borglum Road, SECONDED by Mr. Stow and CARRIED 4-0-0 with all in favor (Ms. Avallone dropped off).

Mr. Fischer MOVED to MODIFY the approval vote for WET#2697 to include mitigation plantings must be installed no later than September 21, 2021, SECONDED by Mr. Stow and CARRIED 5-0-0 with all in favor.

- B. WET#2696(I) GEITZ – 8 Seeley Road** – “corrective action” to address eleven trees removed without a permit in a regulated area

Mr. Geitz presented his “Corrective Action” Application and noted most of the trees he removed were dead and dangerous. He asked for permission to fill in a wetland and flood zone by his well. Mr. Lee noted that Health Code will need to be adhered to with the well cap. Commissioners noted a better understory would be a benefit to the ecology and a few more canopy trees should be used to establish the area.

With no further questions, the Application will be held open.

V. APPLICATIONS READY TO BE ACCEPTED

- A. WET#2687(I) HONEY HILL NORTH, LLC – 94 Honey Hill Road** – “emergency” septic repair within 80 ft. of a wetland
- B. WET#2698(I) SCOTT – 367 Chestnut Hill Road** – “corrective action” to address 1,900 sq. ft. cleared and logs, branches, and yard waste in a regulated area
- C. WET#2706(S) SMITH – 230 Ridgefield Road** – “corrective action” to address clearing, trail work, and removal of a dam
- D. WET#2708(S) IKEGAME – 16 Rivergate Woods** - “corrective action” to address pond dredging without a permit

Mr. Fischer MOVED to ACCEPT WET#'s 2687, 2698, 2706 and 2708, SECONDED by Mr. Stow and CARRIED 5-0-0 with all in favor.

VI. APPROVED MINOR ACTIVITIES

- A. WET#2691(M) BRINA – 455 Thayer Pond Road** – “corrective action” to address six trees removed without a permit in a regulated area
- B. WET#2694(M) DONNELLY – 271 Olmstead Hill Road** – proposed underground 500-gallon propane tank 45 ft. from a watercourse
- C. WET#2695(M) ROSENTHAL – 14 Trails End Road** – proposed above-ground propane tank and generator 10 ft. from a wetland
- D. WET#2692(M) FOOTE – 269 Nod Hill Road** – “after-the-fact” stone patio and sitting walls 71 ft. from a pond
- E. WET#2693(M) RAINONE – 199 Deer Run Road** - proposed shed on blocks and 30 ft. round above-ground pool
- F. WET#2699(M) PRABHU – 350 Sturges Ridge Road** – proposed shed 32 ft. from a wetland
- G. WET#2701(M) BRYN – 39 Woods End Drive** – proposed generator and propane tank 40 ft. from a watercourse
- H. WET#2702(M) GRESSLE – 71 Pin Oak Lane** - proposed tree removal within a regulated area for a solar project

Mr. Conklin provided a brief review of the Minor Applications approved by Staff.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Save the Sound Dam Safety General Permit

Mr. Conklin advised Commissioners about work taking place the next two years at the Strong Pond at Merwin Meadows. There is no requirement for this Commission to review/approve the project as the activities will take place under a DEEP Dam Safety Permit.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion Pertaining to Emergency Septic Repair Permitting

Mr. Lee noted the process for emergency septic repairs/replacements needs to be changed. Town Counsel is reviewing the requirements for this discussion.

Mr. Conklin noted the Inland Wetlands Commission Fee Schedule is being revised effective June 1, 2021 to remove the Additional Fees for disturbance. A discussion ensued relating to bonding

and letting residents know in advance of the requirement.

VIII. VIOLATIONS

A. TAI – 197 Catalpa Road – twelve mature trees cleared and woody debris deposited in a regulated area (Cease & Desist Lifted 4/8/2021 – Application due date May 26, 2021)

Mr. Lee noted the Application is due for the next meeting.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting Minutes April 22, 2021

Mr. Stow MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2021, SECONDED by Mr. Fischer and CARRIED 3-0-2 with Ms. Avallone and Ms. Koechl abstained as they were not present.

Mr. Conklin described the hybrid meeting protocol.

X. ADJOURN

Mr. Fischer MOVED to ADJOURN at 9:21pm, SECONDED by Mr. Stow and CARRIED 5-0-0 with all in favor

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Larkin
Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs