

Ashford, Connecticut
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission
Special Meeting
February 24, 2023 - Minutes

Members present: Leonard Liguore, Chairman, Cheryl Chase, Michael Dietz, Peter Piecyk, Richard Zulick.
Guests: Brian Fitzback, Enforcement Officer; Daniel Quirk and Charles Gagne, Eastern CT Sportsman's Club

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Liguore at 7:00 p.m.

1. Seating of Alternates: not required

2. Old Business:

A. IW-23-01 7 Lake View Dr., Jennifer Dillon, ,Retaining Wall

No one was present to represent the applicant, therefore Mr. Fitzback was asked to provide a brief review of the application to be followed by comments from members who visited the site.

Mr. Fitzback referred to the photographs and noted he had placed stakes 3' from the existing wall showing where the new wall would be constructed. A mini excavator will be used for the work. He indicated that they intend to maintain the structural stability of the slope. About five cubic yards of materials will be brought in; they are to be construction grade materials. Mr. Liguore asked if a new wall was needed? Mr. Fitzback said he felt the wall could be replaced where it is without moving it, but he did say that the concrete was crumbling in places.

Mr. Liguore read important aspects described in the application, Thomas Construction LLC's "Scope of work", "Retaining wall construction process" and "(Alternate wall material option)."

It was noted the large tree's roots near the proposed activity will not be disturbed in the process. Mr. Zulick has seen the old wall. He felt that the construction of the new wall will not degrade the pond if properly constructed and that good erosion control measures such as silt fence or staked hay bales and waddle be installed prior to construction, he also noted that in his opinion drainage measure such as pipes or weep holes behind/thru the wall was not necessary given the type of materials the wall be made of and height of the wall Ms. Chase and Mr. Dietz had no issues with the Dillon project but cautioned about the importance of careful excavation and erosion controls and agreed with Mr. Zulick regarding erosion control measures and that if a new wall placed closer to the pond and properly constructed adequately protect the pond.

. Mr. Piecyk spoke about the Amidon Rd. project.

MR. ZULICK MOVED AND MR. PIECYK SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW WALL AND THE REPAIR OF THE STEPS AND OLD WALL AS DESCRIBED TO THE COMISSION. THE WORK IS TO BE DONE WITH HIGH QUALITY EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MATERIALS INCLUDING A STRONG WADDLE, HAY BALE SYSTEM AND ONE EXCAVATOR TO MINIMIZE DISTURBANCE. FURTHER ONCE THE WORK HAS BEEN STARTED IT IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO COMPLETION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR STANDARD CONDITIONS. THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER MR. FITZBACK MUST TO BE CONSULTED BEFORE THE PROJECT COMMENCES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Old Business

B. IW 23-02 34 Selles Rd., Eastern CT Sportsman's Club, Pond

The two guests, Mr. Gagne and Mr. Quirk, were asked if they had anything to add to their presentation from the last meeting. They did not. The Chair asked the commission for further questions and comments on the application. Ms. Chase asked about the sediment basin. The sediment basin already exists and is to be cleaned out. It is to be lined on the bottom with flat stones available on the property. According to the representatives the basin is only wet a few months out of the year. This part of the project will be planned during the summer months. Mr. Fitzback will be notified when the project is to begin.

The applicants reported that the road culvert under the road is RCP 24 inch diameter and appears to be adequate for most storm events. The proposed smaller pipe located at inlet of the pond is intended to enable all people to safely around the pond and will be covered over. Currently there is an open water channel. The existing

path was estimated to be about 2-3' wide. This portion of the project is also anticipated to be completed during the summer months.

Mr. Liguore asked the members who visited the property to report their findings and a discussion was held.

Mr. Dietz noted the up-stream section above the road is really a stream channel now. He sees no reason for a sediment basin there; he does not see sediment in the pond. It was explained that they mainly need to clean out leaves to keep the basin open. After a discussion with the applicant Mr. Diets agreed with the reasons for the basin and that it was acceptable to armor it with flat stones from the property and likely would function as described assuming that it is continually maintained. 's suggestion that flat rock is best for lining the bottom of the basin; it will also allow easier cleaning. Mr. Zulick noted a retention basin is good for helping to keep a clean pond. He has no problem with placing stones when the area is dry as well as tamping down the rock/earth too. These ideas are good because as it exists fishing is difficult due to the vegetative growth around the pond which is to be stocked with trout for recreational purposes. He noted that excessive siltation will kill the fish and also recommended using a larger machine with greater reach to clean the pond. Mr. Zulick noted that a silt fence should be installed prior to putting the dredged material on the flat area of the property and he suggested that additional stone should be installed at the culverts in addition to the other materials discussed this evening.

Mr. Quirk stated that their main concern preserving the fish, maintain the pond and maintain the outlet and the downstream integrity of the channel which leads to a marsh. The pond depth was estimated to be from 2 or 3 inches to 12 feet deep. The material dug out will be placed in an area on the property shown to the commission. Mr. Piecyk stated that he is familiar with the property and was in favor of the project as described and that the work should be done.

After this discussion Mr. Liguore, seeing no further questions from the commission, summarized the project's features: It is being proposed that the 12 foot x 20 foot sediment basin will be cleaned, and the bottom will be properly lined with flat stones from the property; the spoils area for dredged materials will be a flat area with sedimentation measures being placed prior to any material being placed there. All disturbed areas will be graded and seeded as necessary, the proposed 12" culvert at the inlet is necessary for providing a safe walking path along the edge of a section of the pond that will be cleaned and prepared for the fishing season; the applicant reported that the size of the basin and the pipes are adequate for the property and that no engineering work was done but they felt that with their long experience with the property it was adequate, no members questioned the pipe sizes, materials, slopes or other typical engineering design would typically address, the applicant has agreed to install two more sedimentation measures across the downstream channel for additional sedimentation control, pipe installation, and basin stones will be installed during low flow times and during dry weather, the agent will be notified before any work begins. He recalled from the previous meeting that the pond sedimentation has accumulated over the past 40-50 years and therefore hand work is not an option according to the previous discussion. The urgency for this special meeting was to accommodate the upcoming April fishing derby to be held at this location and to provide adequate time for the work to be completed prior to the event. He also recalled that Mr. Zulick commented during the previous meeting that in this circumstance the applicant is a non-profit entity, and the planned improvements are considered to be a minor maintenance project with minimal pond disturbance which the commission agreed with.

According to Mr. Quirk, the existing downstream measures were originally installed to maintain the level of the pond and protect the downstream channel. The first immediate phase is to clean out the sediment basin and the edge of the pond; the second phase will be done during the summer for new pipes, filter fabric, etc. Mr. Zulick noted that a silt fence should be installed prior to putting the dug-out material there and to also use stone at the culvert not dirt.

MR. PIECYK MOVED AND MR. DIETZ SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EASTERN CT SPORTSMAN'S CLUB'S PROJECT FOR POND MAINTENANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INCLUDES NOTED BY THE CHAIR. FURTHER THAT THE STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLY. FINALLY, THAT THE APPLICANT WILL CONSULT WITH MR. FITZBACK PRIOR TO WORK COMMENCEMENT OF ANY WORK ACTIVITIES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Agent Report

There will be a regular meeting in March as there are some new applications.

4. Member's Comments

The Chair will contact the BOS regarding membership status.

Mr. Piecyk thinks that IWWC members should have formal ID badges or tags of some kind. With site walks listed on the town web site, non-members could visit, and cause concerns, especially when all members do not attend together at the stated date and time. The Chair will discuss this with the BOS. Ms. Chase reminded members about the seminar for land use officials; sign-ups are still possible.

5. Adjourn

MR. PIECYK MOVED AND MR. DIETZ SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AT 7:45 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Valerie B. Oliver, Recording Secretary
2/25/2023*