

Ashford, Connecticut
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes / Town Office Building, Room 104, 5 Town Hall Road
April 4, 2023

Members present: Leonard Liguore, Chairman, Bob Brisard, Mike Dietz, Peter Piecyk, Richard Zulick, Elaine Corey-Zincavage
Guests: Bruce Fitzback, IWWC Enforcement Officer

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

The first item of business is to Review and Approve the Minutes of the Feb. 7, 2023, and March 7, 2023, regularly scheduled meetings. The Chair requested comments from the commission on either of these minutes, having seen none he called for a sustaining vote:

Mr. Piecyk moved, and Mr. Brisard seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of both meetings as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

A. Michah & Kristen Bond, 285 Turnpike Rd. - Re-Subdivision

Mr. Zulick, recused himself from the commission for this application because he represents the owner of property being considered in the application this evening. Mr. Zulick reported that he had performed a soil analysis about ten years ago at this location, and he has more recently provided additional professional wetland analysis of the property for this application. He was here to represent the owner and to answer any questions the commission may have.

The application included documents from Windham Water Works, EHHN, Datum Engineering & Surveying LLC, from Richard Zulick, Certified Forester / Soil Scientist, and The State Archaeologist were included. Mr. Zulick's letter and his comments at the meeting indicated that his field checks were completed showing no activity proposed within the wetlands on the property. His letter noted that "the proposed silt fence will provide adequate protection against siltation and degradation of the adjacent wetlands during the widening of the driveway and the installation of the new utility trench.

Mr. Fitzback reported that he has reviewed the application and associated plans for the application. It was his opinion that the application represents a simple subdivision of the property which by definition must come before the IWWC. He confirmed that no new work was shown within the wetlands areas of the property. He noted that there was a sliver of the existing driveway which was to be widened and a utility trench was being proposed which are located in the upland review area however the proposed work has no adverse impact on the wetlands.

Mr. Zulick, agreed with this statement from Mr. Fitzback that the driveway widening as well as the proposed utility trenching will have no negative impact on the wetlands. It was discussed that it appeared that the widening of the driveway was likely a requirement of the fire department because the driveway will be utilized by two separate properties and must be constructed wide enough to allow an emergency vehicle to reach the homes using the common driveway for safety reasons. The utility trench was likely a requirement of the town.

It was discussed that since this was simply a subdivision of the property into two separate lots with only minimal work being proposed that the application be formerly accepted this evening but does not need to have another meeting to be acted upon. Further, the minor work proposed is necessary for safety reasons and at the request of the town and clearly outside of the wetlands areas. It was agreed that approval of the proposed work can be handled as an "Agent Approval."

Both Mr. Fitzback and Mr. Zulick were in agreement that the application could simply be sent on to the Planning Board this evening without requiring another meeting if the commission agreed. Since Mr. Zulick represented the owner on this matter his opinion was asked for and on behalf of ownership, he stated that he was in agreement with this course of action on the application.

It was further discussed that the minutes of this meeting be included in the information we will forward to P&Z with the following request: *Once the P&Z Commission has completed their work, we ask that they notify the IWWC so that our agent can issue his approval on behalf of the commission.*

Mr. Piecyk moved, and Mr. Dietz seconded a motion for the Wetland Agent to issue an agent's approval of the application as presented relying on information presented and on testimony by the soil scientist present during the meeting. Further, the application will be referred to the Ashford Planning & Zoning Commission for their consideration with a request that once the P&Z Commission has completed their work, we ask that they notify the agent of the IWWC so that he can issue his approval on behalf of the commission, assuming no further work will be added to the application.

. Motion passed with the following members voting in favor of the motion including Brisard, Dietz, Liguore, Piecyk, & Elaine Corey-Zincavage. Mr. Zulick did not vote.

Old Business

Continuing our discussion regarding the issuance of some form of identification for members who may be conducting site visits such as a badge was further discussed. It was decided that all suggestions will be considered and once agreed to someone can make up a sample for the first Selectman to approve before we put them into production.

Some of the suggestions to be included in the badge were: having the commissioner's name on the badge, we would like to have the year the badge was issued, maybe a symbol of the town, clearly stating that the holder is a current member of the IWWC, also a photo of the holder of the badge should be included on the badge. Mr. Zulick mentioned that he responded to the request made a while ago regarding some of his suggestions, he would review it in light of the current suggestions and report back during the next meeting.

Agent's Report

Mr. Fitzback handed out a spread sheet listing the 7 IWWC activities/permits for 2023, (nos. 23 1 to 23-7). It was suggested that the date the application was approved should be added to the list.

Member's Comments

The chairman, congratulated Elaine Corey-Zincavage for her formal appointment as an alternate member of the Ashford IWWC by the BOS. She was also congratulated for completing the Wetland Course online.

Adjourn

Mr. Piecyk moved and Mr. Dietz seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Valerie B. Oliver, Recording Secretary