

**Ashford, Connecticut**  
**Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission**  
**Regular, Virtual Meeting via Zoom, Minutes**  
**June 7, 2022**

Members present: Leonard Liguore, Chairman, Bob Brisard, Cheryl Chase, Mike Dietz, Peter Piecyk, Rick Zulick, Joe Theroux, Wetlands Enforcement Officer

Guests: Bruce Fishback / Thomas Barry, Pres. Ashford Lake Property Owners Association / John Guskowski, Tyche, Facilitator

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

**1. Seating of Alternates:** Mr. Dietz was seated for Mr. Barclay, and Mr. Brisard was seated for Mr. Fenn.

**2. Review and Approval of Minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Regularly Scheduled Meeting**

**Mr. Piecyk moved and Mr. Dietz seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2022 regularly scheduled IWWC meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Additions to Agenda:**

Chairman Lenny Liguore noted that this was the last meeting for Joe Theroux, our Enforcement Officer and stated that on behalf of members of the Ashford IWWC stated that we will greatly miss him and wish him well in his new endeavors. His dependable and excellent work has been very much appreciated by members and especially the Chairman.

Our guest this evening, Mr. Bruce Fitzback, has been recommended by Mr. Theroux to fill his position. Mr. Fitzback's resume was provided to the members and outlines quite varied and appropriate experiences, many for Putnam, Conn. where he currently serves as the Wetlands Agent, Town Planner and provides other services to the community. Mr. Fitzback spoke briefly and answered questions from the members. He assured members that he would have the time to attend regularly scheduled meetings and to go on site walks, whether during the day or evening, he will inspect projects as necessary and is aware of the duties and responsibilities of the Wetlands Agent for our town.

With both Mr. Theroux's and Mr. Zulick's recommendation, Mr. Liguore felt confident about Mr. Fitzback's ability to serve the town in this capacity, and he also received unanimous support for Mr. Fitzback from the other members in the decision to recommend him for the position to the Board of Selectmen. Therefore, we will forward the minutes of this meet to the BOS for their further consideration of Mr. Fitzback as a suitable replacement for Mr. Theroux's position.

**4 Old Business: A. 96 Nott Highway LLC. Wetland Remediation**

Mr. Theroux reviewed the current situation. They have a permit to do the remediation. He met on site last week and reports that fencing was put up around the perimeter, but it was not constructed according to specifications. The required specs were emailed, and the fencing will be corrected. Wetland signage is to be put on the fence posts around the boundary. Plantings should be purchased with the advice of soil scientist George Logan; heavy vegetation surrounds the area now. There will be no issue once the plantings are done correctly.

The Chair asked that Mr. Theroux to meet with Mr. Fitzback (assuming he will get the position) to review the history of the project and visit the area. He agreed stating that all related documents are in the file for this project.

Members were asked if they had questions. Many were glad that the remediation is finally underway. Ms. Chase noted that she thought that the project was still in violation. She was correct; lifting the violation is contingent upon the completion of all the remediation. Once a final inspection is made and all is satisfactory then the notice of violation will be lifted.

Mr. Liguore asked that when Theroux and Fitzback visit the site that they take photographs to be shown at the next meeting.

**5. New Business: A. Ashford Lake Owners Association: Construction of Drainage Features on Ashford Lake Drive. [Ashford Lake Property Owners Association / ALPOA]**

Mr. Theroux presented an overview of the issue by noting that no.3 in the plan document by Wentworth Civil Engineers LLC presented the best summary. The existing 15" drainage pipe installed years ago is no longer adequate and that coupled with a damaging weather scene last year has prompted the proposed changes. Phase one will include installing 18" pipe to replace the 15" pipe there now. A swale on the west side of the road will help handle the water flow; water flowing to the east toward the lake resulted from the failure of the drainage system as currently designed. The swale itself was reported now as just about flat grass.

Phase 1 involves the property of Ashford Lake Dr. no. 30 whose owner will be moving. Although they signed the application indicating permission to go onto the property the new owners will need to be notified about the project. Regardless, the permit is issued for the property. Any issue is a civil one between the owner and the ALPOA. No other properties will be affected by the changes. A phase two is also described as affecting no. 40 Ashford Lake Dr. Both no. 30 and no. 40 have pipes going through their land. From west of the Drive to the Lake in the east.

Mr. Thomas Barry, Pres. of the ALPOA, added to the history, problems and discussion of the project. Members were asked if they had questions. Despite receiving the formal application, accompanying documents and the engineering plan including site maps and drawings, the latter was very difficult to read even when enlarging the text, etc. Members had difficulty reading and fully seeing the complexities. Printed plans are available at the Town Hall and can be picked up there. It was noted that it is not just a

"rain" problem as ice blocked the system in the winter. Several members indicated they would have questions once they have access to and have studied the engineering document.

**Member concerns were expressed regarding:** water quality / sediment control near the water line / difficulties cleaning and maintaining riprap and the new pipe /pretreatment of water, would upgrades be required / catch basins. Ms. Chase expressed concern that there was no discussion by the engineering firm about how they came to their design decisions. This type of discussion should have been in the application. The firm should be asked to provide this information for the Commission. Mr. Barry will ask the engineering firm to attend our next meeting.

A site walk was set for this Friday June 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the site, no. 30 Ashford Lake Drive. Those unable to attend will visit on their own or talk with those that attended.

Mr. Barry will be there and will take members to Campert Lane also to see the drainage situation there. Campert Lane is an Ashford town road while the Ashford Lake Drive and other roads around the lake are ALPOA properties and as such are no cost to the town for maintenance, plowing, etc.

**Mr. Piecyk moved and Mr. Zulick seconded a motion to accept the application by The Ashford Lake Property Owners Association for construction of drainage features on Ashford Lake Drive. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. Agents Report**

Mr. Theroux noted that the outstanding issue was the entire drainage issue on Campert Drive. Nothing has been done about this even though three 1<sup>st</sup> selectmen have known of the problems there. The landowners, the Ashford Lake Property Owners Assoc. and the Ashford DPW need to get together and get things fixed. "Chocolate colored" water has been flowing into Ashford Lake. Engineering plans have been prepared, but nothing has been done. Paving the road and fixing the drainage system should be done by the town (it is a town road). The Chair asked that Mr. Fitzback be brought up to speed on this long-standing issue.

Mr. Barry indicated that the town does periodic road maintenance. However, with letters on file and videos of storm damage available, still the result is limited action. The problem is that it is a town road, costing money to fix. Mr. Barry noted that some property owners on Campert resist the town efforts compounding the problem.

Access to a map of this area would help members.

## **7. Member's Comments – none**

## **8. Adjourn**

**Mr. Piecyk moved and Mr. Dietz seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 7:54 p.m.**

The Chair will ask K. Zulick to post the site walk: June 10, 2022, 5:30 p.m., no. 30 Ashford Lake Drive.

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Valerie B. Oliver, Recording Secretary, 6/7/2022*