

Ashford, Connecticut
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission
Regular, Virtual Meeting via Zoom, Minutes
July 5, 2022

Members present: Leonard Liguore, Chairman, Bob Brisard, Cheryl Chase, Mike Dietz, Peter Piecyk.
Guests: Thomas Barry, Pres. Ashford Lake Property Owners' Association / Ann Milner / Don Judson

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

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

2. Review and Approval of Minutes of the June 7, 2022 Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Mr. Piecyk moved and Ms. Chase seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022 regularly scheduled IWWC meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Additions to Agenda: none

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

The Chairman noted that Mr. Fitzback has not formally been placed in the Enforcement Officer's position; the Board of Selectmen want to have a special meeting to officially approve an employment letter designating him as the new Wetland Agent. Both Mr. Fitzback and Mr. Theroux were to visit the site and take photographs. Members were referred to the report presented at the June 7th 2022 meeting by Mr. Theroux. The fencing, signage and plantings were not all completed as yet. Unfortunately, the fencing was not up to code and needs to be fixed. This agenda item will be postponed until the August regular meeting.

Once a final inspection is made and all is satisfactory then the notice of violation will be lifted.

4. Old Business; B. Ashford Lake Owners' Association [ALPOA]: Construction of Drainage Features on Ashford Lake Drive. *A copy of the application and accompanying data can be viewed in the building department upon request.*

Other Documents supplied by email:

Sent 6/6/22

Wetlands Permit Status Record Ashford, CT / (outstanding Permits 2016-2022). 4p.

Sent 6/9/22

2 Letters from the ALPOA to 1st Selectmen, Silver-Smith dated 2/8/2021 and Falletti dated 2/9/2022 - both stating drainage issues at Ashford Lake, especially Campert Lane.

Area 3: Intersection of Campert Dr. and Farm Dr.

Area 5: Town of Ashford owned Campert Lane, westerly of intersection with Campert Dr. and Farm Dr.

sent 6/28/22

Proposed Drainage Improvements. Prep. for ALPOA, by Wentworth Civil Engineers, 22p. 4/27/2018

Drainage Design Plans. Phase I & II, Ashford Lake Drive. prep. for ALPOA by Wentworth Civil Engineers, 9p.

Drainage Calculations, Prep. by Wentworth Civil Engineers, Inc., 4p. 4/28/22

IMG 4545.MOV: video of water flowing out of two pipes and then down the road edge

2 photos of water draining along Campert Lane

The Chair asked for members' assessments as a result of visiting the site.

Mr. Dietz understands the logic but thinks that since the swales are to be modified, they should be adapted to provide more protection for the lake; they should be "water quality swales." This type of swale is described in the *2004 Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual*, to be updated very soon. A grassy swale is easier to keep clean than a rip rap swale.

Mr. Piecyk spoke with two residents who said heavy rains had flooded one or two homes. He agreed with Mr. Dietz.

Ms. Chase toured the site with Bruce Fitzback and Richard Zulick. She noted the plan did not state what would happen to the retaining wall near the lake on property 40? She noted the specific section in the *Manual* providing design details (section P5 = Water Quality Swales). She would like a narrative from the engineer or a person at the site walk to answer questions would have been better.

Ms. Milner and Mr. Judson were asked if they had comments but stated they were present as observers only.

The Chairman noted that he had sent a letter to Syl Pouley, Regional Engineer at NECCOG but has not heard back yet.

Mr. Liguore visited the site with Mr. Barry, the Association's President. Noting many pipes crossing roads and driveways, he stated the importance of following the drainage and swale plans outlined in the *2004 Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual*. He is hopeful that the proposed plans will match up with the *Manual* and that he will hear soon from Mr. Pouley.

Mr. Barry stated that the engineer will provide written answers to specific questions; water quality has been addressed in the plan. Grassy swales get eroded over time and with heavy storms, etc. Phase I is designed to solve the problem while Phase II is there if improvements are needed later. If the swale were to be totally effective the pitch would be very steep making a deep road edge ditch; therefore, the design is for an underground swale involving perforated pipe, concrete catch basin with cover to allow cleaning, 18" pipe and rip rap at the outlet. Treating water is taken into account.

Mr. Liguore noted that the Association is aware of the problems and probably the plans will match up with those of the *Manual*. Since the NECCOG engineer did not get back to him nor did our recommendation for our wetland officer get finalized, we do not have complete commentary. Mr. Barry then noted that Windham Waterworks visited the site and made no recommendation.

Mr. Dietz thought Phase I unclear, leaving minimum water treatment. Further comments:

Mr. Brisard asked about maintenance; who does the cleaning? Mr. Barry noted that they have 8 catch basins and follow a maintenance plan cleaning drainage areas every other year; the sediment is sucked out and rip rap swales blown out. The last cleaning was done in fall 2021. Homeowners are expected to clean out weeds, etc. at their own driveway areas.

Mr. Piecyk prefers to wait for further engineering reports, including our own.

Ms. Chase still would like to know why specific designs were made? Can the swale pipes also cause erosion? Where are pumps? One circle notation on map indicates just a link between two pipes.

Mr. Barry needs questions written out. Mr. Liguore restated these issues [approximations follow]:

1. How does the plan relate to those in the *2004 Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual*?
2. Catch basin structures noted; are there other sediment basins?
3. The Association's maintenance plan should be explained and justified.
4. Will swale pitch be enough to contain/store stormwater and prevent runoff over driveways and the road?
5. What happens in a bigger storm with pipes crossing road and driveways? Is maintenance effective?
6. What will happen to the retaining wall, in Phase II?

The design should be "reasonable" per the Chairman and designed for normal storms. Mr. Barry will have a report or will try to have the engineer at our next meeting.

5. New Business: none

6. Agent's Report: none. Mr. Theroux's service has ended. See no. 4 in June 7, 2022 Minutes.

7. Member's Comments:

To clarify: Campert Lane is a town road / Campert Drive is privately owned by the ALPOA. A driveway was noted that completely filled in the swale. A long history of drainage problems is acknowledged. Rip rap detention basins were noted as "not engineering." Mr. Falletti, 1st Selectman, will walk the area. All of Mr. Barry's documents have been sent to NECCOG.

When will the IWWC meetings be in person? No date set as yet. In person or virtual are preferred over hybrid by Mr. Dietz. The online seminar for July 19th about Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act should be beneficial per Ms. Chase.

The Ashford special Zoom town meeting (see *Ashford Citizen* for July 1, 2022, p. 4-5) being held tonight June 5th does not list any ARPA funds for drainage on Campert Lane. Since new patio paving for Knowlton Hall costing \$68,000 is being suggested, Mr. Barry wondered where priorities are? Is there is difference between ARPA funds and the Infrastructure and Jobs Act funding? Could either be used for this Campert La. situation? Chairman Liguore will write to the 1st Selectmen about this concern.

[ARPA, Am. Rescue Plan Act (became law 3/11/2021) recovery funding to states... and local towns of less than 50,000 in population. IJA, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (became law 11/15/2021) HR3684 is new funding for infrastructure especially roads, bridges and major projects,...]

8. Adjourn

Mr. Piecyk moved and Mr. Brisard seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 7:50 p.m.

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