

Ashford, Connecticut
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission
Town Office Building, Room 104, 5 Town Hall Road
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2023

Members present: Leonard Liguore, Chairman, Bob Brisard, Mike Dietz, Peter Piecyk, Richard Zulick
Guests: Bruce Fitzback, Enforcement Officer, Eric Peterson, Gardner & Peterson Associates, representing R&M Holdings LLC

Mr. Fitzback handed out pertinent documents including minutes from the previous meeting, along with plans and the application for IW 23-12 prepared for the meeting.

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

1. Seating of Alternates: not required

2. Review and Approval of Minutes of the July 5, 2023, Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Mr. Piecyk moved, and Mr. Brisard seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2023 regularly scheduled IWWC meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Additions to Agenda: none

4 Old Business: Application: IW 23-12, R & M Holdings, LLC, 21 Lakeside Drive, Beach Relocation

Mr. Zulick recused himself as he was involved with the project.

The Chairman asked **Mr. Fitzback** to report on the "Notice of Violation" dated June 18, 2023, issued to Robert & Judy Campbell. He reported that the homeowners have been complying with the instructions outlined in the letter.

Mr. Peterson was requested to provide a summary of the application and plans before the commission, beginning with the existing conditions and then on to the proposed improvement plan. A detailed review was provided to the commission upon which the chair opened the meeting up to the commission providing them time to asked questions.

Mr. Peterson also informed the commission that that EHHN reviewed the ongoing and proposed work and provided an approval letter from them which was entered into the record.

Among the numerous changes made to the plans included setting and relocation of the rock walls, installation of 2 drywells connecting to the roof drains, placing of stone under the existing deck, providing new grassed areas, remove a tree along the property line next to 17 Lakeside Drive, planting a flower garden where the work was previously done (septic system) along with a mortared flat stone wall and reseeding and grading the area. The removal of existing material in the area where the new beach is planned, installing high grade sharp sand to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. The new beach will be placed at the same elevation as the existing terrain, and they will provide adequate erosion control measures in the form of waddles or other measures as required by the Wetlands Agent as necessary. The homeowner reported that the 3 scheduled to be removed along the shore would be cut down, however the stumps would remain to hold back the soil from slipping into the lake. Although the floating dock was already installed it was not previously approved by the commission, however it is now included in the existing and proposed plans.

Mr. Peterson provided a schedule of operations for the proposed work and would review it with the Wetlands Agent before commencing operations. His firm would stake out the boundaries of the new beach, insuring that it would not be any larger than the old beach.

Mr. Zulick reported that the proposed improvements would not cause any long or short term harm to the lake. His worst case scenario was that if a heavy rainstorm or hurricane were to occur during construction some sand might get into the water and that before that happened adequate measures would be taken to prevent any erosion into the lake. In summary, Mr. Zulick stated that he was satisfied with the schedule of operations, the type of materials and placement of the new beach, and that overall, the plans adequately protect the lake and wetlands.

According to Mr. Zulick, the only risk to water quality was the septic system, but the proposed protective measures would go a long way to alleviating that risk.

Mr. Brisard asked if the Lake Assoc. would be informed of our decisions. This was left to the Agent as to how to inform the Lake Association and if in his view it was necessary to do so.

The questions raised by the commission were all adequately addressed during the meeting.

Mr. Dietz moved, and Mr. Piecyk seconded a motion to approve the application IW 23-12, R & M Holdings, LLC, 21 Lakeside Drive, Beach Relocation. Motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business: none

6. Agent's Report:

Mr. Fitzback reported on a possible future application with an issue at Frontage and Old Town Roads, an agent approval at 19 Frontage Rd., researching that the IWWC requires 7 Commissioners and 2 alternates with 4 Commissioners as a quorum. He also noted that the current application needs to have wording that allows for additional approvals, such as from the Army Corps of Engineers. He will need to see what the formal process is to change wording in an application. The Chair noted Ms. Chase could help with wording before we proceed to make any changes to the application.

7. Member's Comments:

The Chairmans asked Mr. Kurt Brenneman, present for the meeting, to introduce himself as he is interested in possibly joining the IWWC. An Ashford resident (or in the process of becoming one) but owning property here, he explained his interest in water quality, wetlands, nature, etc. Mr. Zulick gave a brief explanation of the role and responsibilities of the commission and of a Wetlands Consultant. Mr. Liguore encouraged him to read our online regulations and to send him an email expressing his interest in joining the commission afterwards.

8. Adjourn:

Mr. Piecyk moved, and Mr. Brisard seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 7:55 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Valerie B. Oliver, Recording Secretary
8/1/2023*