

Ashford, Connecticut
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission
Regular, Virtual Meeting via Zoom, Minutes
August 2, 2022

Members present: Leonard Liguore, Chairman (arrived late), Bob Brisard, Cheryl Chase,, Peter Piecyk.
Guests: Thomas Barry, Pres. Ashford Lake Property Owners' Association / Wes Wentworth, Engineer and Soil Scientist, Wentworth Civil Engineers, LLC, Lebanon, CT / Ann Milner / Bruce Fitzback, Ashford's Wetlands Agent.

Materials supplied to members prior to the meeting:

Application for Permit, ALPOA, 20p. Land Use Office File 1 W22-P4

IWWC Wetlands Agents Review, 7/29/2022, 1p. 2022-04, ALPOA Proposed Roadway (5 concerns)

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Chase at 7:07 p.m.

1. Seating of Alternates: Mr. Brisard was seated for Mr. Barclay.

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

Mr. Piecyk moved and Mr. Brisard seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2022 regularly scheduled IWWC meeting as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

Corrections / changes:

p.1 4 A. line 1 to read: ...formally been placed in the Wetlands Agent's position...

line 2 ...to read: Board of Selectmen will have a special meeting to officially approve an At-Will employment...

p.2 in paragraph beginning Mr. Liguore visited the site... After this first sentence add: He observed numerous pipes under the road similar to the one being considered tonight, noting that this is not uncommon for the association. We would like to know from the engineer if this design is in compliance with the 2004 CT Storm Water Quality Manual. Noting that we are not reviewing this application as engineers but would like to understand the reasoning behind the overall design elements and criteria utilized in the plan presented and how it matches up with the manual. He sent plans and other information to Mr. Pouley for his review but has not heard back from him as of this evening.

p. 2 paragraph beginning: Mr. Barry stated ... follows as written

add after Mr. Barry's paragraph:

Mr. Liguore noted that the Association has hired their own engineer; they have spent their own money in preparing the application and plans and if approved will install the improvements at their expense. We assume that they have prepared a sufficient plan to take care of the problem in the area. We are only considering the proposed improvements in Phase I this evening. We look forward to hearing from the association's engineer and the NECOG's engineer as well as our next meeting.

Mr. Liguore asked the members for further comments.

p.2 in paragraph beginning: Ms. Chase still would like to know: continue statement to read...why this specific design was arrived at. Is the possibility of further erosion going to be an on-going concern in the future? She would like further information about the various types of underground structures used in the design and if they have sumps to catch sediment before it goes into the lake.

3. Additions to Agenda: none

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

Mr. Fitzback reported on his visit to the site. The owners were not home. He noted that the fence did not meet the desired design with top and bottom rails consisting of 1" x 3" wooden boards. He would prefer to talk with the owners and asked that the discussion be tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Chase, leading the meeting, agreed to table this discussion.

4. Old Business: B. Ashford Lake Property Owners Association: Construction of Drainage Features on Ashford Lake Drive

Mr. Wentworth, whose company designed the plans introduced himself as a soil scientist with 29 years of experience. He explained the problem of a 15 acre area in the west draining down toward the road and lake. Issues include water overlapping the road, a flat swale, 12" pipe not effective since it is designed for 5-6 acre area drainage not for an area of 15 acres and sediment is migrating to the lake. He stated that it is a good-sized project. The plan proposes to fix the swale, add catch basins, and establish two outfalls to replace the 12" pipe improving peak flow to the lake. The plans are designed to handle 10-25 year storms.

Mr. Wentworth addressed the concern for water quality by stating that the plans have been modified to stabilize the swale with 300' of Rip Rap. Perforated 4" pipe will be added to aid in stormwater drainage. Water quality tests were run today. He stated that the plans reflect a reasonable approach, a primary treatment. He has emailed further "Water Quality Volume Calculations, Phase I - Ashford Lake Drive." This report received 8/2/22 after the close of the meeting confirmed that 4" perforated pipe will be used to allow slow release and that "void space as proposed provided treatment for the first 2/3' rainfall." The report also stated that water "storage in proposed Rip Rap swales = 1,100 cf." Data for Phase II was also supplied stating "storage in proposed Rip Rap swales = 1,375 cf;" and "slow release through 4" perforated pipe ...void space as proposed provided treatment of the first 1/2" rainfall."

Mr. Liguore stated that his questions regarding water quality were answered pretty well. Rip Rap covering 500-600' is much more than normally required. He appreciated Mr. Barry's job and the comments of Mr. Wentworth.

Mr. Fitzback asked about the catch basins. There will be covers with two curved side openings, standard DOT catch basins.

Phase II was discussed briefly. Mr. Fitzback was concerned about property owner's formal written permission notices. Three lots were mentioned as being involved with Phase II: one is vacant and the other two have homes. Although Mr. Barry noted that because the swale is to be within 50', a right of way, formal permissions should not be needed. Mr. Fitzback cautioned that he is protecting the liability of the town and that the Association has the responsibility if damages occur. He stated that the permit should not be approved until permissions/consents are formally secured (for lots 13,10, 6).

Mr. Brisard had no further questions. **Mr. Piecyk** stated that as long as the list of items on p.9 regarding maintenance were followed he was fine with the plans.

Mr. Fitzback stated that two issues need to be clarified before voting: 1. the landowners should sign official permission documents and 2. the 4" pipe mentioned should be added to the plans. Mr. Wentworth indicated that the 4" perforated pipe data could easily be added to the plans within the 15 days.

The Chairman indicated that the revised plan should be available at the town hall. He asked that Cheryl work with Bruce and Wes to come up with the formal language the IWWC requires. Mr. Barry indicated that the Association is hoping that the approval will be for both Phases.

Ms. Chase moved and Mr. Piecyk seconded a motion to approve the application of the Ashford Lake Property Owners Association (ALPOA) for construction of drainage features on Ashford Lake Drive as explained tonight providing that the permission documents are signed by the property owners affected by Phase II and that the language is added reflecting the use of 4" permeable pipe. Motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business:

Mr. Fitzback reported that a plan was just "dropped" on his desk from a William Gambel of Campert Lane. Apparently, he was given a building permit, began building a home and driveway and then was told the building permit was revoked because he had not gained permission from the IWWC. The Wetland Agent noted that no application had been received nor had the fee been paid; the IWWC new nothing of the project. Bruce visited the site and stated the pipe under the driveway is stable and that now since the application has been received and fee paid, he would like to issue the permit. Members were in agreement.

Mr. Piecyk moved and Mr. Brisard seconded a motion for the IWWC Wetlands Agent to issue a permit and approve the application Motion passed unanimously.

6. Agents Report

As the IWWC is aware of issues on Campert Lane and Drive, a visit to the area by Mr. Fitzback, at least one IWWC member, Mr. Barry and possibly Mr. Fallitti, 1st Selectman, was discussed. Mr. Fitzback will organize the visit that is to just gather information. The issues there will be discussed at the next IWWC meeting. Methods of funding a project to fix drainage issues were noted and information will be shared about STEAP grants and possibly the upcoming new federal Infrastructure funding. Mr. Brisard would like to attend the visit.

7. Member's Comments

Ms. Chase emailed members regarding the annual meeting of the Connecticut Assoc. of Conservation & Inland Wetlands and Watercourses (CACIWC) on Saturday October 25, 2022. Once further details are known she will keep members informed.

The revised ALPOA plan should be at the town hall within the 15 day deadline. The Chair asks that he be kept informed of the Agent's permits and approvals.

8. Adjourn

Ms. Chase moved and Mr. Brisard seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 8:02 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Valerie B. Oliver, Recording Secretary
8/2/2022*