

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION &
INLAND WETLAND AGENCY MINUTES
February 23, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Moeling called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Moeling welcomed the two newest members to the Commission.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Cherichetti took the roll call.

PRESENT: John Moeling; Ed Holowinko; Steve Klocke; Matt Pentz; John Levin; Jenn Balliett; Farrah Marin; and Cheryl Brown, alternate.
Alexis Cherichetti, staff.

III. RECEIPT & DISCUSSION

a) **#S20-563 – 57 Noah’s Lane Ext. - Sijuwade** – Installation of on-site septic system, patio, shed, retaining wall, fence and paths in and adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti gave a brief overview of the proposed activities, noting the relative location of each activity to the wetland and watercourse in the rear of the property.

Ms. Abigail Adams, RLA, presented the project and displayed the site plan. She noted the wetlands were delineated by Jim McManus recently. She described the proposed elements to be removed, the proposed patios and active areas, the retaining wall, the fence, the new on-site septic system and the planting plan. She discussed the purpose and design goal of each element.

Mr. Levin asked for more information regarding the condition of the property, and the wetland area, currently; particularly he asked about the fauna currently within the wetland.

Mr. Moeling stated he was concerned about the proposed path within the wetland.

Mr. Levin concurred and encouraged the applicant to consider an alternative way to enjoy the wetland without installing a stone walkway.

Mr. Holowinko added that the proximity of the proposed shed to the wetland was a concern.

Ms. Brown inquired about the total amount of fill proposed. Ms. Adams stated it would be approximately 125 cubic yards.

Mr. Moeling noted his concern about the proposed fence within the wetland and asked about the proposed installation. Ms. Adams described the fence and referred to the detail. The number of posts needed to be installed within the wetland was discussed.

Mr. Klocke noted they were concern about loss of the natural character of the wetland, as well as the reduction of wetland buffer with the proposed expansion of lawn too close to the wetland.

Ms. Marin concurred with the concern about the stone paths within the wetland area.

Mr. Klocke added he did not like the proposed fence crossing the watercourse.

Mr. Moeling, addressing the applicants, noted the Agency members understood the desire to make the best use out of the property, but the members were trying to be clear and upfront about their concerns with the plans.

- b) **#S20-564 - Bonnybrook Road – Norwalk Department of Public Works** – Rehabilitation of existing bridge and wingwalls at bridge in and adjacent to Holy Ghost Fathers Brook.

Ms. Cherichetti noted the bridge repair would involve work adjacent and within the brook.

Ms. Vanessa Valadares, DPW Principal Engineer, provided an overview of the City's obligations to inspect small span bridges in the City; she noted the inspections indicated a variety of needed minor to moderate repairs.

Mr. Paul Sotnick, DPW Senior Engineer, expanded on the history and the process. He indicated Freeman had been retained to do the inspections and to provide design services for the rehabilitation work.

Mr. Dennis Quint, project manager with Freeman, displayed a series of photos of the bridge while he described the scope of work for this location. The project would include work within the streambank and in the stream bed. The ends of the culvert pipes would be replaced and the scour hole at the pipe's outfall would be filled in. He described the components of the work in detail.

Ms. Cherichetti noted the Agency was always seeking improved best management practices that are protective of the City's water resources from all applicants. She encouraged the applicant to look into improving the current asphalt 'leak offs' that convey road runoff into the watercourse. Grassed swales along the road right-of-way were discussed as options.

- c) **#S21-565 – 8 Shadow Lane – Garcia** – Installation of in-ground pool and retaining wall adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti described the location of the property.

Ms. Kate Throckmorton, RLA with Environmental Land Solutions, LLC, displayed the proposed site plan and described the proposed activities. The work in the front of the property would include a retaining wall just uphill of the watercourse. She suggested installing this wall as the first activity would be protective of the watercourse and wetland since this area would be the construction access to the rear of the property. She further described the pool and proposed excavation and retaining walls in the rear of the property. On the other side of the driveway in the front of the lot, a portion of the driveway closest to the watercourse would be removed.

Ms. Cherichetti encouraged the applicant to revise the planting plan with a wider and more effective buffer planting in the location where the driveway was to be removed.

IV. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION

- a) **#S20-560 – 15 Adams Lane – Dean** – Corrective Action restoration and replanting of wetland and upland review area of a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti noted there was a draft resolution for the Agency's consideration in her memo.

The applicant, Mr. James Dean, was present and spoke. He stated there is no stump grinder on the site, just a portable sawmill. He countered Mr. Levin's assertion that the unpermitted clearing activities were done at his direction or that any of his testimony was disingenuous. He described his proposed plans for the property.

Mr. Klocke stated he was prepared to present a motion, unless there was more discussion wanted.

Ms. Cherichetti clarified that the two newest Commissioners would not be voting on the matter.

*** **MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION WITH ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION IN MS. CHERICHETTI'S MEMO.**

*** **MS. BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** MOTION PASSED WITH 3 IN FAVOR, 1 IN OPPOSITION (LEVIN) AND 2 ABSTENTIONS (MOELING, PENTZ).**

b) **#S20-562 – 761 Main Avenue** - Construction of a new multi-family residence, with associated on-site septic system, stormwater management and landscaping, adjacent to a wetland and watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti noted the applicant has submitted revised site plans as well as other new or revised documents including drainage management report, flood zone report, landscaping plan, and renderings.

Ms. Lynne Ward, applicant, briefly discussed the proposed residential development.

Mr. Steve Pustola, PE, referred to the proposed plans and described the proposed building. He noted a report with flood information had been submitted. He discussed the proposed fill and compensation.

Mr. John Imbiano, RLA, described the plants proposed for the biofilters. He described the planting plan for the area at the southern end of the parking lot, which would become a landscape feature.

Mr. Moeling asked what the square footage of the southern planting area would be.

Ms. Brown asked about the other areas that would be landscaped.

Mr. Klocke noted that for this type of development, he often saw large retention areas for stormwater, not the narrow bioretention strips proposed.

Ms. Cherichetti asked for confirmation of notice to the Wilton Inland Wetland Agency.

Ms. Cherichetti displayed photos of the site taken earlier in the day. She encouraged the applicant to submit a plan to properly deal with snow, noting the current practice continues to pile it onto the river bank. She noted a violation was issued as recently as February 2020 for the practice.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. February 9, 2021 minutes

Ms. Moeling suggested minor corrections.

***** MR. MOELING MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES.**

***** MS. BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VI. COMMENTS OF STAFF

VII. COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Moeling welcomed the two new Commissioners and invited them to share a little about themselves and their interests. Ms. Marin and Ms. Balliett briefly introduced themselves.

V. ADJOURNMENT

***** MR. KLOCKI MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

***** MS. BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.