

MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
JUNE 8, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Scott, Ashworth, Furlong, Williams
Staff: Jones, Silsby

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Scott at 7:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Amendments to the Inland Wetland & Watercourses Regulations, Sections 2, 5.2, and 6.6

Williams read the Notice of Public Hearing and Scott opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Staff gave an overview of the proposed amendments to the Town of Groton Inland Wetlands Regulations pertaining to Sections 2, 5.2, and 6.6. The proposed changes rely on state statute and the DEP model regulations for language. Regulation amendment sections had been previously given to all members. Staff reviewed each section of the amendments. The following documents were entered into the record; DEP Guidelines Upland Review Area Regulations Connecticut's Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act, letter from DEP dated 5/18/11, a map showing the named brooks in town, exhibit of a map showing what the expanded upland review areas would look like at these brooks, etc. A memo from the Town Attorney dated 2/3/11 was read into the record. Staff stated that the Town Attorney found these changes satisfactory. Also read into the record was a memorandum dated 5/10/11 from the Planning Commission who had no comment, as well as a memo dated 6/7/11 from the Conservation Commission, who is endorsing the upland review changes.

Sidney Van Zandt, 3 Front Street, Vice President of the Groton Open Space Association (GOSA), noted that GOSA is pleased about increasing the regulated area adjacent to the wetlands and watercourses. She read a letter into the record explaining the importance of taking into consideration the State 2002 Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and the 2004 Stormwater Management plan. GOSA is urging the Agency to amend these plans as they are amended by the State. Concerns were raised about protecting vernal pools and inland wetlands and watercourses. Documentation was distributed for the record, including a booklet about biodiversity.

The Agency had no comments.

MOTION: To close the public hearing

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Ashworth, so voted unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF May 25, 2011

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 25, 2011

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Ashworth, so voted unanimously

V. NEW APPLICATIONS - None

VI. PENDING APPLICATIONS

1. Proposed Industrial Development, 90 Leonard Drive

Staff stated that the applicant is not yet ready to proceed.

2. Amendments to the Inland Wetland & Watercourses Regulations, Sections 2, 5.2, and 6.6

MOTION: To approve the amendments to Sections 2, 5 and 6.6 of the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Regulations for the following reasons:

1. The Agency finds that the amendments to Section 2 are consistent with the Department of Environmental Protection's Guidelines for Upland Review Area Regulations and with the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Act.
2. The Agency finds that Eccleston Brook, Bindloss Brook, Fort Hill Brook and Birch Plain Creek are resources of special concern and the upland area adjacent to them provides a number of critical functions including controlling non-point source pollution, temperature control, and protection of aquatic habitat.
3. The Agency finds that it is critically important to protect the water quality of Great Brook, Beaver Dam Brook, Hatching House Brook, Hempstead Brook and Haley Brook by carefully considering activities within upland areas adjacent to these watercourses as these watercourses flow to existing and proposed public water supply sources.
4. The Agency finds that the amendments to Section 5 are consistent with the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Act.
5. The Agency finds that the amendments to Section 6.6 are consistent with the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Act and will provide guidance to applicants in preparing Erosion and Sediment Control Plans and Stormwater Management Plans when required by the Agency.

These amendments shall become effective on July 1, 2011.

Motion made by Furlong, seconded by Ashworth, so voted unanimously

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Chair

Ashworth suggested that the Agency recommend that Public Works install cape cod curbing wherever possible to allow amphibians to cross roads easily. Staff will pass this on to the Public Works Department

Furlong inquired about the dam removal at 456 Poquonnock Road. Staff stated that this item will be on the next agenda.

Furlong requested an update on the Crandall enforcement action. Staff stated she goes back to court on Monday June 13, 2011.

2. Report of Staff

Staff handed out the following documents: 1) A Notice of Intent to renew a permit for discharge from Avery Point aquariums; 2) Subase newsletter; 3) Information about a bill that will extend the life of certain wetland permits.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Dave Scott, Chairman
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Robin Silsby
Office Assistant II