

MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
JANUARY 25, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – 134 GROTON LONG POINT ROAD
COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Scott, Block, Ashworth
Staff: Jones, Allen, Galetta

Chairperson Scott called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. January 11, 2017

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 11, 2017, as written

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

IV. PENDING APPLICATIONS

1. IWA 16-10 Grasso Technical High School Drive Improvements, 185 Fort Hill Road

Gary Guimond, Landscape Architect and Principal Partner at Richter & Cegan, Inc. presented the project to the Agency. The existing E.T. Grasso Technical High School is being replaced with a new school that will be built to the west. The school sits entirely on State of Connecticut owned property but it has no frontage on Fort Hill Road. The only access is through Town of Groton owned Sutton Park where an easement has been granted by the Town.

Guimond identified the key areas where work will need to be conducted. Essentially all the utilities are being replaced with the exception of water and sewer lines. The other utilities, which include electrical service, cable, telephone, communications, and fire alarm, will be below pavement. The catchbasin locations and discharge point will not change. The entire area will be repaved post construction. Two new signs are proposed, a portion of one is in the upland review area.

Guimond described the design for the new entry sign explaining that it will provide a visual presence at the roadway. Hay bales and silt socks will be used during the installation of the structure.

The Agency was concerned with how the utilities will be brought under the brook. Guimond detailed the plan and explained that some of

the utilities are on the side and the others are under the decking of the culvert but above the brook itself.

The Agency requested information on how deep the footings would go. Staff noted the wall is more decorative in nature. The footings will be standard and go down to the frost line.

The Agency had concerns about any crossing of the brook and will condition the permit to keep construction out of the streambed.

Staff noted that a preconstruction meeting is required. Fort Hill Brook is channelized in this area and most of the work is taking place in the lawn area.

MOTION: To approve Grasso Tech Entry Drive Improvements for the following reasons:

1. There is no loss of wetland or watercourse as a result of this application.
2. The applicant has designed the erosion control plan to minimize any impact to the wetland.

This permit is subject to the four standard conditions and the following additional condition:

1. The culvert coring will not be done from the streambed of Fort Hill Brook.

Motion made by Scott, second by Block, so voted unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Chair – None
2. Report of Staff

Staff noted that Town Manager Mark Oefinger is retiring and a firm has been hired to coordinate the search for a new town manager. There is a survey online that is available for anyone to fill out regarding the qualities a new manager should have and citizens are encouraged to respond.

Staff also explained that OPDS has hired a facilitator to look at land use permitting processes and work flow. The idea is to take out extraneous, non-value added practices. The process is called LEAN and it was developed in Japan by Toyota. Upon completion of the program recommendations will be made based on the facilitator's work with the team. Among a number of other proposals will be a suggestion that the Agency allow staff to have the ability to make some administrative approvals. Other ideas like e-permitting and easing the paperwork burden for customers are being explored.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Barbara Block, Secretary
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Lynda Galetta
Office Assistant II