

MINUTES  
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
JUNE 13, 2018 - 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – 134 GROTON LONG POINT ROAD  
COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Scott, Ashworth, Sutphen, Block, Beglau  
Absent: Williams  
Staff: Jones, Allen, Galetta

Chairperson Scott called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and sat Beglau for Williams.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. May 23, 2018

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 23, 2018, as written.

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Beglau, so voted unanimously.

IV. NEW APPLICATIONS

1. IWA 18-05, Singer Residence Septic Repair, 28 South Road

Staff introduced the application to the Agency noting that this is a private residence located at the corner of Poquonnock Road and South Road. The existing septic system is failing. The homeowner has investigated the options for hooking into the public sewer and it has proven to be impossible. This proposal is for installing a new septic system. Staff explained that the leaching field will be outside the regulated area but trenching for new lines and a new pump will take place within the regulated area. Staff also noted that the Poquonnock River is tidal wetlands and the wetland boundary will not be encroached; however, they have suggested silt fencing across the whole boundary to protect against erosion. The Agency had questions about the existing system that is failing and concerns about the effect of potential power failures. Ledge Light Health District has already approved the proposal and perc testing has been done. The applicant will be available at the next meeting to answer questions and provide further details.

MOTION: To classify the application as minor.

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

2. IWA 18-06, Groton Bible Chapel Expansion, 66 Toll Gate Road

Norm Thibeault of Killingly Engineering appeared before the Agency explaining that he is representing Groton Bible Chapel, Inc. The Chapel is proposing to construct a new worship center and associated parking. Several years ago an application was approved by the Agency to build a youth center that was never constructed. The corporation now wishes to

build a new church chapel in the same location. Along with the youth center, a parking area was also approved and constructed. In addition to the worship center, this project proposes to construct a gravel parking area within 75' of the wetland boundary and convert a heavily grassed area used for overflow parking to gravel. Thibeault noted that the existing water quality basin is functional; however, it will be modified and enlarged to comply with State of Connecticut water quality guidelines. All the activity being proposed is in previously disturbed areas. The only trees that will be cut are near existing houses located on the site. The tree line will remain intact as well. A good portion of pavement will be removed for the construction. There are several entrances off Toll Gate Road which will see no changes.

Staff noted that the property is located in the Water Resource Protection District (WRPD). It is a very large lot and is well below 70% maximum impervious surface requirement.

The Agency determined it would like to visit the site and scheduled a site walk for July 9, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

MOTION: To classify the application as minor.

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

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. East Farms Subdivision Lot 3 Restoration

Staff noted they have visited the site and the silt fencing is in place. There is also significant growth of Japanese Knotweed on the banks and upland area. Michael Franklin appeared before the Agency and explained that a restoration plan is being formulated. He distributed a plan from a previous permit that described existing conditions and proposed management of the Knotweed. The overgrown areas have to be addressed and mitigated before any new plantings may be done. In fact, the entire stand must be mitigated which involves a sequence of spraying, cutting, regrowth, and spraying again. This is what Brian Kent recommended at the time. Franklin will provide the Agency with a proposed management plan that includes a replant list, area sizes and a restoration plan.

### 2. Report of Chair

The Agency noted that Aquarion Water Company is staging material for the water main upgrades on Pequot Avenue. Staff stated that a Public Works Department inspector has been assigned to the job and will mention the Agency's concern to him.

The Agency also noted concerns about a sidewalk on Colonel Ledyard Highway where the subdivision is being constructed. Staff visited the site this week and noted the deficiencies which the developer will fix.

The Agency discussed of the status of Mystic Woods Subdivision. Staff noted it is located in a residential, single-family zone, or with a Special Permit an active adult community could be built.

### 3. Report of Staff

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Staff attended a legal issues seminar and reviewed an article with the Agency that contained some good reminders about appealable actions.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Barbara Block, Secretary  
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Lynda Galetta  
Office Assistant II