

INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
OCTOBER 11, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – 134 GROTON LONG POINT ROAD
COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Ashworth, Block, Williams
Staff: Jones, Galetta

Block called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 27, 2017

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 27, 2017, as written.

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

IV. NEW APPLICATIONS

1. Receipt of New Applications – None

V. PENDING APPLICATIONS

1. IWA 17-07, Bridge Reconstruction at Whitford Brook, North Stonington Road

Greg Hanover, Town Engineer, described the project to the Agency. The North Stonington Road Bridge over Whitford Brook in Old Mystic is co-owned by the Town of Groton and the Town of Stonington. It has been out of service for approximately 5 years and the deck is completely gone. The scope of the project is to rebuild and expand the bridge. The estimated cost is \$1.2 million which is being shared equally by the two Towns plus a grant from the State of Connecticut. Groton is taking the lead on all communications with DOT.

Hanover also introduced Engineer Glenn Jarvis and Environmental Scientist Megan Raymond of Milone & MacBroom who are working on the project with Groton. Jarvis explained that the new bridge will be expanded to 32' long. They will keep the existing abutments in place and build the new abutments behind. The old abutments will act as erosion and sediment control during construction and once completed stabilized with rip rap. The road way will be reconstructed without much change to the grade. The bridge opening will be wider and a shelf added along the side for animal traffic. Improvements to the drainage system include two catch basins and a hydrodynamic separator. All excavated material will be removed.

The Agency had concerns about the location of the project in the upland review area, the equipment that will be used, the time of year during which the work will take place and the length of time for completion. They also discussed concerns about possible flood damage to the bridge structure in the future.

Megan Raymond addressed the environmental impacts of the project. She explained that at the ordinary high water mark there are no wetlands. The existing banks are armored with concrete or comprised with field stone so minimal disturbance to the stream banks is expected. The area is located in an Eastern Box Turtle habitat area. Protocol for managing the species during construction is to avoid harm to animals.

Staff noted the original bridge was built around 1938. A wetland permit was recently granted by the Town of Stonington for the project.

MOTION: To approve the North Stonington Road Bridge application for the following reasons:

1. There is no loss of wetlands or watercourse as a result of this project.
2. The stormwater management system will include water quality treatment prior to stormwater discharge to Whitford Brook.
3. The erosion and sediment control plan, as designed, will limit adverse impact to Whitford Brook.

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

1. A pre-construction meeting shall be held with Town staff prior to the start of work.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Chair

The Agency discussed the water line project in West Mystic at Willow Point. Staff noted work has stopped because of an issue encountered while jacking under the railroad tracks.

2. Report of Staff – None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Barbara Block, Secretary
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Lynda Galetta
Office Assistant II