

MINUTES  
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
JANUARY 13, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Block, Scott, Williams, Ashworth, Furlong, Sutphen  
Staff: Jones, Galetta

Chairman Scott called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from DEEP to Connecticut Municipal Inland Wetland Agencies – 2015 Legislation and Regulation Advisory.

Staff stated that there were no changes to the wetland status in 2015.

2. Letter from Eversource Energy to Inland Wetlands Agency – 2016 Scheduled Maintenance Activities on selected rights-of-way in Town of Groton.

Staff explained that this is a yearly letter from Eversource with the method for clearing under powerlines. The only areas to be cleared in the Town for the next year are along the Ledyard town line and through Deerfield Subdivision.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. December 9, 2015

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 9, 2015, as written.

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Ashworth. Motion passed 4, 0, 1 (Block)

IV. NEW APPLICATIONS

1. East Farm Subdivision, 492 Noank Road Mystic

Michael Franklin, of New Venture LLC, described the application to the Agency. He is proposing to replace a culvert in the East Farms Subdivision which was approved in 1995.

Staff explained that the applicant has an existing wetland permit that allows replacement of the culvert in kind should it be broken during construction. This application is a request to increase the culvert size. One house in the subdivision has been built and a second lot is under construction. Stormwater calculations have been submitted. Staff noted that one of the property owners has not yet signed the application.

Franklin stated that he is before the Agency to inform them that the application has been submitted and to encourage a site walk. He further explained the reasons for the application. The original stone culvert is failing and there is a granite pond north of the culvert that needs to be restored. There are also invasives that need to be cleaned out. When the original culvert was designed there were no stormwater calculations done. To replace the

culvert in kind means keeping it 12' however calculations now show that a 30' culvert would be required to handle a 25-year storm.

DEEP has been contacted to determine whether the driveway is considered a dam. They have ruled that they have no jurisdiction in the matter, but they do have a major concern that if the pipe is replaced it is big enough to handle the stormwater.

The Agency discussed the impact to the wetlands expressing concern with how much material will be removed, what means will be used to remove it, and where it will be deposited. The Agency will schedule a site walk after the next meeting presentation.

V. PENDING APPLICATIONS

1. IWA 15-12, Vary Residence, Lambtown Road

Staff noted that the applicant was not ready to present and the application was tabled to the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Groton Village, 10 Fort Hill Road, Extension Request

Staff noted this is a small condominium development complex that has been purchased from the Town at auction contingent on the court accepting their bid for the property. The new owners will develop the subject location into condominium units or apartments. They are requesting a five year extension which is all that is allowed. Staff also noted that a conservation easement has been filed. This is a flat site and on the original plan drainage discharge pulled back as far as possible.

MOTION: To grant a five year extension of Permit No. 07-02, Groton Village Condominiums, 10 Fort Hill Road.

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Block. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Election of Officers

MOTION: To re-elect the current slate of officers.

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Block. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Report of Chair – None

4. Report of Staff

Staff noted that the Committee of Chairs will meet on January 25, 2016.

Staff has received an anonymous complaint about possible wetland fill at a business situated on Poquonnock Road. A tenant currently occupies the property. Staff reported that it appears there might be filling or something going on at the site. A letter has been sent to the owner who lives out of state. Staff will have a further report at the next meeting.

A request has been received from the Parks & Recreation Department relative to the Mortimer Wright property. An abutting property owner has contacted the department to request that an existing culvert be kept free of large rocks and that a small breach be repaired. Mark Berry, the Parks & Recreation Director, is seeking permission to put this work on the trails maintenance schedule. The Agency discussed the trail and flooding that has happened. They agreed that the breach can be repaired with onsite material and that large stones can be removed from the culvert without a permit. Sutphen noted that she would be happy to walk the property with Director Mark Berry and give him some historical perspective.

Ashworth noted that he has observed numerous unregistered vehicles on undeveloped property on Cold Spring Road. Staff will discuss this with Paul Dickson who handles Code Enforcement.

Staff informed the Agency that the Siting Council has issued the permit for a solar array on GU property. During deliberation the Council addressed most of the Agency's comments. It was determined that the array is far enough away from the reservoir. A swale will also be included around the site. Other permits are still needed before the project can begin.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Barbara Block, Secretary  
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Lynda Galetta  
Office Assistant II