

MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
FEBRUARY 10, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Block, Scott, Williams, Ashworth, Sutphen, Furlong
Staff: Jones, Galetta, Dickson (7:01)

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

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. January 27, 2016

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 27, 2016, as written

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

2. February 1, 2016

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 1, 2016, as written

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

IV. NEW APPLICATIONS

1. IWA 16-02, Watrous Subdivision, 0 Grove Avenue

Land Surveyor Mark Sullivan introduced the application to the Agency. He reviewed the location of the subject property, 0 Grove Avenue, and introduced the owner Roger Watrous. Staff noted that this Grove Avenue is located on the west side of town, near Military Highway. Sullivan reviewed the location describing it as a 2.39 acre parcel situated near Pleasant Valley Baptist Church. The subject property also has the availability of city water and city sewer. The proposed project is a 4-lot subdivision that includes the construction of four houses, driveways, grading, landscaping and utility installation within the upland review area. No work will be done in the wetlands. Sullivan detailed how the lots will be laid out and explained that a shared driveway will keep construction out of the wetlands.

There is sheet flow across the property from a drainage discharge off of Shannon Lane. They plan to make a drainage swale with a pipe drain under the driveway. The water will drain through rip rap into the wetlands where it already drains; however, this will allow for more controlled drainage.

The Agency had questions relative to the underground utilities, how close the property is to the wetlands, the style of driveways proposed and the geography of the area.

The Agency scheduled a site walk for Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 2 p.m. Staff will forward a map along with site walk agenda.

V. PENDING APPLICATIONS

1. IWA 16-01, East Farm Subdivision, 492 Noank Road Mystic

Michael Franklin summarized the application for the Agency stating that East Farm Subdivision is an approved project. The proposal is to replace the existing culvert with a larger pipe and the Agency has heard all the details during the presentation and a site walk. Regarding the spillway in the dam where the stone has dropped out, when the stone is replaced it will raise the pond water level.

The Agency had concerns about how the removal of the invasives will be handled and is seeking confirmation on how far back the digging will occur. Staff suggested flagging the area to be sure nothing goes back into the cattail area. The area in the back will be left natural. Wetland plantings in the back would be good. Franklin noted that he will seek a consultation with Brian Kent, a landscape architect.

The project is targeted to begin soon because a house is currently being built and utilities are needed. The approximate completion date is May/June.

The Agency reviewed and discussed the site plan map. Staff noted and explained the additional conditions of the motion. Invasive species will be dealt with by cutting and painting with an herbicide.

MOTION: To approve the East Farm Subdivision application for the following reasons:

1. The existing culvert is crumbling and will be destroyed when the previously approved water line is installed.
2. The construction methods and the erosion and sediment control plan will protect the wetland from significant impact during construction.
3. The removal of vegetation along the edges of the pond and driveway will protect the structural integrity of the driveway.
4. There will be no loss of wetland or watercourse associated with this application.

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

1. A preconstruction meeting shall be held with the contractor and town staff on site prior to the start of work.
2. The area of sediment removal from the pond shall be flagged and inspected prior to the start of work.
3. The location of sediment deposition on site shall be identified and approved by town staff prior to the start of work.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Chair

Chairperson Scott noted that he will be away for next two meetings.

2. Report of Staff

Staff met with the tenant involved in the Poquonnock Road wetlands violations. He has agreed to pull everything out; however, due to the nature of his work will need to do so gradually over the next two months. Staff has contacted both the owner of the property and the tenant in writing. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and if the violator is deemed non-compliant a Cease and Desist Order will be issued.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Barbara Block, Secretary
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Lynda Galetta
Office Assistant II