

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

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

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. March 9, 2016

MOTION: To approve the minutes of March 9, 2016, as written

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

2. March 15, 2016

MOTION: To approve the minutes of March 15, 2016, as written

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

IV. NEW APPLICATIONS

1. IWA 16-05, Northeast Interceptor Sewer Clearing, Fishtown Pump Station Through Judson Avenue

Anacelys Abreu, of the Town of Groton Public Works Department, presented the application to the Agency. The project consists of clearing the sewer easement between Judson Avenue and the Fishtown Pump Station. The Agency previously approved clearing of the sewer easement in the Woodcrest section of Town. The easement clearing is necessary for future maintenance. This particular area is severely overgrown with most of the roots protruding into the manholes. No liner will be put in and repairs will be done only if a problem is found.

The Agency had concerns about the technique used to cross the watercourse east of the pump station. Abreu explained that timber mats will be used to cross the watercourse. The mats will create a temporary bridge to support the equipment as it is transported to the clearing area. The mats are made of rubber and will prevent damage to the brook. The project is expected to take two days and is planned to commence within the next month or two.

Staff noted that the goal is to develop a Townwide permit similar to the existing drainage permit. This will define standard best management practices for working in the wetlands and develop a maintenance program. After the two initial projects in the Woodcrest and Fieldcrest sections, maintenance is expected to be required on an annual basis.

MOTION: To classify the application as minor.

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

V. PENDING APPLICATIONS

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

Staff noted that the applicant has submitted a request for a 65-day extension in order to do some more engineering work.

Motion: To grant a 65-day extension.

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

2. IWA 16-03, High Rock Inn Sidewalk, 0 High Rock Road

Clint Brown, of DiCesare Bentley Engineers, reviewed the application to construct a multi-use path on the south side of High Rock Road. The project has gone through staff review and been submitted to the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CONNDOT) resulting in a couple of changes to the plan. He described the changes which include widening the path to 10', limiting work in the upland review area and narrowing the path to avoid utilities. Additionally, CONNDOT requested ramps at both ends. The paving will be bituminous with a snow shelf. There will be very little grading or tree loss.

Staff noted that comments from Planning and DPW have been addressed.

MOTION: To approve the High Rock Inn application for the following reasons:

1. There is no loss of wetland or watercourse associated with this application.
2. The sediment and erosion control plan will adequately protect the wetlands during construction.

This permit is subject to the four standard conditions

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

3. IWA 16-04, U-Haul Self Storage, 187 Gold Star Highway

Staff noted that revised plans are expected for next meeting. The revisions will include separating the roof water stormwater discharge from the parking area discharge.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. 3 Ashby Street

Staff noted that there is a brief memo relative to this item in the agenda packet. Based on an anonymous telephone call about some activity that might be taking place at 1 and 3 Ashby Street, staff paid a visit to both locations. Activity was underway at both locations in

order to clean up back yards without knowledge of the fact that there are wetlands and a watercourse on the properties.

Staff reported that activity at 1 Ashby Street has been stopped. The owners are installing erosion controls and are working to remove debris from the upland review area. Staff will issue a letter regarding the required remediation work. A cease and desist letter will be issued if the work is not completed in a timely manner.

Staff reviewed photos of the activity at 3 Ashby Street noting that the cleared area in the middle is mostly asphalt. A culvert runs under the paved area from one side to the other. Staff noted that the owner is present to answer any Agency questions.

The homeowner, Tina Swaney, explained that this is her family home. Her grandparents, who originally built the house, owned a trash hauling business so they put a pipe under the driveway and paved the entire yard so they could store their equipment. Swaney inherited the property and was trying to clean it up when she was contacted by town staff. Her intent is to clean up the yard and plant grass in the areas that aren't asphalt. The owner will leave the pipe as is for the time being but explained that the stream does not flow well through the pipe. The pipe does become clogged and then backs up into a neighbor's yard. She has no solid plans as to what she is going to do for now.

Staff noted that all work has stopped but the pipe is definitely clogged and needs to be cleaned out. The Agency felt comfortable with the owner cleaning the pipe by hand. If machinery is required to do the cleaning the property owner must contact staff. Staff will issue a letter outlining the process and explaining when to contact staff.

2. Report of Chair

Vice Chairperson Sutphen reported that the owners of property on Fishtown Road that was issued a permit for a new house have started cutting trees. Staff noted that this location will be added to the inspection list.

Sutphen also noted that the East Farms Subdivision culvert pipe replacement, presented recently by Michael Franklin, is underway and may need additional erosion controls. The contractor needed to blast ledge along the pond in order to install the underground utilities but seems pretty delicate in his handling of the wetlands.

3. Report of Staff – None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

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Barbara Block, Secretary  
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Lynda Galetta  
Office Assistant II