

MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
JUNE 10, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Scott, Ashworth, Block, Furlong, Sutphen (7:16 p.m.)
Staff: Jones, Galetta

Chairperson Scott called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and sat Furlong for Williams.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF May 27, 2015 and June 3, 2015

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 27, 2015 and June 3, 2015, as written.

Motion made by Ashworth, seconded by Block, 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Furlong).

IV. NEW APPLICATIONS – None

V. PENDING APPLICATIONS

1. Lot #8 Office and Warehouse, 245 Leonard Drive

Matthew White of Angus MacDonald Gary Sharp & Associates reviewed the application for the Agency. He made a presentation in May and the Agency has held a site walk. The proposed building will be located to the north and all activity in and out of the building is on north side away from the wetlands. There will be onsite storm water retention located on the south side of the lot that accepts sheet flow from the parking lot. The water then discharges to a wetland created as part of a past enforcement action. To the east there is a low area where water flows onto the site. To convey the water flow through the site a pipe has been added that will discharge to the basin via a vegetated swale. The created wetland was reviewed by Richard Snarski, a Certified Soil Scientist, who determined that it is functioning as designed.

Staff noted that the site walk showed the created wetlands is functioning well and the applicant is proposing an additional basin to enhance water quality. The outlet to the new basin will be similar to the created basin. It is noted that gravel or porous berm will be used.

MOTION: To approve the 245 Leonard Drive application for the following reasons:

1. There is no loss of wetland or watercourse associated with this project.
2. The project has been designed to treat storm water before it is discharged to the wetlands.

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

1. A stone filter berm shall be installed on the southwest side of the stormwater basin to ensure that the basin fully drains.

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

2. Doncasters Manufacturing Facility Addition, 835 Poquonnock Road

Paul Biscuti, of DiCesare-Bentley Engineers, Karl Palermo, Facilities Manager, of Doncasters Precision Castings, Jim Cowen, a Certified Professional Wetlands Scientist and Dave Turner, of Turner Environmental presented the application to the Agency. A preliminary presentation was made at the last meeting and the Agency had a site walk of the property. Biscuti views this as a straightforward project and his goal is to get the project classified so his clients will know the regulatory process requirements. The plan calls for four building additions along with a free standing storage building. New paved areas for truck turning movements at the loading dock, expanded employee parking and an additional paved area for trucks and a dumpster near the storage building are also proposed. The grass limits are shown on the plan. There will be improvements to three detention basins on the site, two of which are linear and one is isolated.

Biscuti reviewed the history of the site which was formerly owned by Arwood. In 1985 Arwood secured permits from the Town for all phases of expansion. At the time the entire grassy area was prepped for parking and detention basins were designed for full expansion. While their storage capacity is very large there is sedimentation in the basins. Improvements will be made to the basins to mitigate future sedimentation. Sediment fore bays and mircopools are proposed to enhance the wetlands and water quality. An off-line sediment fore bay will be created so the area of pavement that discharges will be captured. The detention basins are all classified as inland wetlands and have been delineated by Jim Cowen in the field. The applicant is also proposing a rain garden for improved water quality purposes and to provide a place for the paved areas to drain. The idea is to provide vehicle access year round by keeping water and ice off the pavement.

Biscuti noted that as a result of staff inquires about the project they are disclosing that a contaminant leaked into groundwater an undetermined number of years ago, but most likely prior to Doncasters purchasing the property. There are monitoring wells at the site and the remediation is under the jurisdiction of DEEP. As part of the review, staff questioned whether contaminants are present in the sediment in the detention basins. Chemical analysis of sediment samples determined that there are low level contaminants of various types.

Biscuti has submitted revised plans that incorporate components of the remediation program which will require material management. They propose the removal of sediments during July and August low flow. The plan is to use sump pumps to dewater the basin and get the sediments as dry as possible then bring them off-site to a licensed facility. Any water impacted will be run through a waste water treatment system.

Dave Turner, of Turner Environmental, LLC, is a licensed environmental professional with 25 years of experience. He reviewed the results of his analyses for the Agency. The sediments are contaminated with several types of low level contaminants. There are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the upper depths, and total organic carbon (TOC), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), some levels of metals, and poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in both shallow and deep sediment samples. The highest concentrations are in the first detention basin and decrease in subsequent basins. The plan originally called for on-site disposal of clean sediment; however, now that the low level contaminants have been identified the sediment will be taken off-site to a licensed facility. The proposed ground water treatment will take care of VOCs found in the ground water.

Turner further explained that the on-site monitoring wells are present because of releases of trichloroethylene (TCE) from a vapor degreaser on the abutting PCC/Wyman Gordon building that began in the 1990's. The majority and highest concentrations sink as evidenced by a big contaminant plume in the bedrock. While only low level contaminants were found in the sediment samples, it is likely that the groundwater in the area is impacted and will require additional treatment during construction. This brings an additional component to the project that needs to be managed properly but is not impossible to deal with.

The Agency had concerns about the depth and spread of the current contamination. They also questioned whether Doncasters is using metals that would be considered dangerous.

A representative of Doncasters explained that loading occurs at the southeast section of the property. One reason for the project is to split the raw materials being received from the product being shipped. Nickel is part of the process but is in solid form. Additionally, all scrap material is recycled back to certified metals. They reclaim the nickel and alloys back from the dust and collect every bit they can to recycle. There is a monetary incentive to reclaim as much material as possible.

Turner's professional opinion is that the contaminants are from historical operations that predate the current use of the property. They are sequestered in the soil right now and held in place by roots. Turner believes the source is discontinued and there is no new contamination coming from the adjacent property. He described the water treatment system. The remediation program will be registered with DEEP and there is a stringent sampling and monitoring program associated with it.

Biscuti noted there is impact to the wetlands by virtue of the fact that all of the basins are classified as wetlands. The start of this proposal was to seek permission to improve the detention basins in order to manage future sediments.

Jim Cowen addressed the Agency regarding the impact to the wetlands. There will be an off-line sediment fore bay but the wetlands line is difficult to determine. The amount of fill calculated is probably over estimated. He and Biscuti looked at it in terms of locations of micropools and found invasives, particularly phragmites, in pool one. The additional benefit of improving the detention basins is removal of the invasives. There will be a combination of seed and plugs for water quality benefits.

Micro pools will be used to get deeper water emergent plants. The plants were selected for their water quality benefits.

The Agency was concerned that there may be other issues associated with the contamination. They were also curious as to whether the movement of material is continuous and slow or episodic.

Biscuti stated that they have made full disclosure based on what they know at this time. Another entity has responsibility for the contamination. Based on the record, Wyman Gordon is the certifying authority and Doncasters has no involvement or authority. As far as Doncasters is concerned they want to get their expansion project underway as soon as possible and are looking to remove sediments during the dry months of July and August in the current year.

Turner reiterated that the contamination is relatively stable and locked up in the vegetation. His opinion is that even a major flood would not impact the wetlands. Additionally, the vegetation that gets disturbed will be removed and other vegetation will be added.

Staff noted that the Agency and she were unaware of the contamination at the time of the site walk. Staff advised that when classifying the application the Agency must determine if the activity being proposed has a significant impact to the wetlands. Staff will distribute the report to the Agency.

MOTION: To classify the application as minor.

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Ashworth, 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Block).

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Chair – None
2. Report of Staff – None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Barbara Block, Secretary
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Lynda Galetta
Office Assistant II