

MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
OCTOBER 14, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

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

Chairman Scott called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and sat Furlong for Ashworth.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF September 9, 2015

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

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

IV. PENDING APPLICATIONS

1. IWA 15-09, The Sandbox Indoor Volleyball Facility, 1500 Gold Star Highway

Staff noted that the applicant is still working on the septic system design but they are expecting to have something for the next meeting. Ledge Light Health District is requiring a larger septic system to handle the larger volume from onsite shower facilities.

2. IWA 15-10, Woods Walk Park – Playground Relocation, 110 Murphys Drive

Mark Berry, Director Parks and Recreation, had a meeting conflict and the application was presented to the Agency by staff. This is the relocation of a play area at the end of the Murphys Drive cul de sac which is located in the Woods Walk neighborhood. The playscape was originally built to manufacturer specifications; however, during a Parks & Recreation inspection of the equipment it was found to be unsafe and dismantled. The play area is located in a large open space parcel that has wetlands. The playscape will be rebuilt at the same distance from the wetlands but relocated to a flat area. The new location is currently an open, grassy area already.

MOTION: To approve the Woods Walk Park Playground Relocation application for the following reasons:

1. There is no loss of wetland or watercourse associated with this project.
2. The new playground location requires limited grading within the regulated area.

This permit is subject to the four standard conditions.

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

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. 31 Ice House Lane, Preliminary Discussion

Staff introduced the discussion to the Agency and identified the subject property on a plot plan along with an as-built showing the exact house location. Staff explained that no application has been received and the Agency is being addressed for the purpose of a preliminary discussion only. Additionally, at the time the house was built the regulated area was 50'.

William Horgan introduced himself to the Agency and clarified that he is currently renting the property but may purchase it if a pool is allowed. He referred to the letter he forwarded to staff explaining his reasons for asking the Agency to consider allowing a back yard pool. While the pool would be located in the regulated area, this section of the property is cleared of trees and currently maintained by the occupants with a garden area scattered with large rocks. Horgan reviewed the proposed pool location and explained that it would extend off an already existing poured concrete patio. He assured the Agency that he would be sensitive to the fact that this is the upland review area and he would work within the Inland Wetlands Regulations and follow their guidance.

The Agency noted that it is very familiar with this subdivision. There is also a vernal pool located in the wetlands. This particular house is located right on the 50' setback so that no matter what is done in the back yard it will be in the regulated activity area. Additionally, the pool will need to be maintained which will impact the wetlands particularly if it is a salt water pool. The Agency was in agreement that there would be wetland impact if the pool were located in this area. They suggested the applicant try to see if the pool would work in another location on the property.

2. IWA 2016 Commission Meeting Schedule

MOTION: To approve the 2016 meeting schedule as presented.

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

3. Report of Chair – None

4. Report of Staff

Staff noted that they have received a determination by DEEP to remove the Hyde Pond Dam. This dam is located right on the border with Stonington. They have just received an Army Corp permit and will be reshaping the water course.

A tentative declarative decision was also received from the Connecticut Siting Council relative to Groton Utilities installation of a photovoltaic solar array at the filtration plant property.

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Staff advised the Agency that a notice was received about the CACIWC annual meeting.

Staff also distributed Connecticut Wildlife magazine.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Barbara Block, Secretary
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Lynda Galetta
Office Assistant II