

MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
APRIL 25, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Scott, Sutphen, Block, Furlong, Williams
Staff: Jones, Silsby

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Scott at 7:02 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF March 7, 2012 and March 28, 2012

MOTION: To approve the minutes of March 7, 2012 and March 28, 2012.

Motion made by Block, seconded by Furlong, so voted 3 in favor, 2 abstentions (Sutphen and Williams) The motion carried.

IV. NEW APPLICATIONS

1. Cutler Middle School Parking Lot, 160 Fishtown Road

Wes Greenleaf of the Board of Education and Paul Biscuti of DiCesare Bentley Engineers were present for this application. They reviewed the plans to expand the parking lot with an additional 18 parking spaces. They pointed out that Wetlands and ponds exist on the property. Greenleaf explained why additional parking spaces are needed, noting that this school is being consolidated with another middle school.

Discussion ensued about other parking lot options on the other side of the school building. Greenleaf felt that parking on the other side might infringe upon the playing fields. Sutphen and other members explained why they felt it might be better to park on the other side of the building in light of the fact that wetlands and ponds exist on the side that the applicant is proposing. Furlong expressed her concern about current parking problems on Fishtown Road. She suggested to indent the existing parking area, which may help in not blocking the street.

Greenleaf stated that the existing parking lot was designed when the majority of the students walked to school but now, more students are either bused-in or are dropped off by their parents, which is causing traffic problems. He noted that it is inevitable that these buildings and grounds will need to be expanded in the future, when money is available. In the meantime, he feels that this proposal is a simple and inexpensive fix.

Scott suggested that a single lane be installed on one side of the building and another lane on the other side, which should help with the concern of infringing on the playing fields. He explained the importance of the buffer in the wetland area.

Staff believes the applicant's proposal has minimal impact on the wetlands. Sutphen explained the problem with doing a quick fix. Furlong and Scott agreed with Sutphen and would not support the original proposal.

The Agency asked Mr. Buscuti to put up stakes in the areas where the parking spaces might be installed.

V. PENDING APPLICATIONS

1. Tarasevich Mobile Home Park, 30 Tower Avenue

Attorney Robert Avena and Donald Fortunato were present for this application.

Staff explained that the activity of bringing fill on the property generated a Cease and Desist Order, which is still pending. She noted that this application is to allow the fill to remain in place on the property.

Fortunato gave the specifics of the restoration plan. He noted that 144 square feet of fill was placed in the wetland and upland review area. A conservation grass mixture will be planted to help guard against erosion. At the end of the two-year period, he will reseed if necessary, and will remove any invasive species.

Attorney Avena explained about erosion problems that have occurred in the past and why the property owner's son brought in fill. The owner was not aware that a permit was required.

Staff explained that because the application was received at the March 11, 2012 Wetland meeting, the Agency is allowed to act on this application tonight.

Scott explained the importance of coming to the Agency for a permit.

MOTION: To approve the Tarasevich Mobile Home Park application for the following reasons:

1. The boulders and fill were placed to stabilize an area eroded during Tropical Storm Irene.
2. There are no future regulated activities made inevitable by this permit.

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

1. The property shall be stabilized and monitored in accordance with the January 30, 2012 Soil & Environmental Services report.

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Williams, so voted unanimously

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Tarasevich Mobile Home Park, 30 Tower Avenue, Show Cause Hearing

In light of the fact that the Agency just approved a permit to leave the fill in place, the Cease and Desist Order will be withdrawn.

MOTION: To close the show cause hearing for the Tarasevich Mobile Home Park, 30 Tower Avenue.

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

MOTION: To withdraw the Order issued on December 6, 2011.

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Chair

Sutphen inquired about the clearing at the entrance to Ella Grasso Technical School. Staff will review.

Staff distributed information about an upcoming FOI training session.

Furlong received a call about the new gas station that opened up on Route 1 near Fishtown Road. She noted that shad bushes along the brook are now gone. She asked Staff if these bushes were required under a town permit. Staff will look into this.

2. Report of Staff

Staff reviewed plans by Grossman's Seafood, Gold Star Highway, to have a mobile kitchen parked just off the parking lot within the upland review area. Discussion followed about the location of the truck in relationship to the wetland area. It was noted that there is no drainage associated with this activity. Staff stated that there is no major change and no impact.

The Agency stated that no permit is required.

In regards to the Laurelwood Mobile Home Park, staff stated that there are no new trailers.

In regards to Furlong's inquiry, Staff stated that the activity that is going on at the Ceravolo property is not near wetlands.

Staff distributed the most current "Habitat" Newsletter.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. by Sutphen, seconded by Williams, so voted unanimously.

Barbara Block, Secretary
Inland Wetland Agency

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