

MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
JUNE 10, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott at 7:30 p.m.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

Amendments to the Inland Wetland & Watercourses Regulations

Sutphen read the Notice of Public Hearing and Scott opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Staff gave an overview of the first phase of the proposed amendments to the Town of Groton Inland Wetlands Regulations. She explained that these amendments will bring the regulations into conformance with state statutes. The proposed changes rely on state statute and the DEP model regulations for language. Regulation amendment sections had been previously given to all members. Staff reviewed each section of the amendments.

It was noted that most amendments are needed in order to conform to state statutes.

Edith Fairgrieve of 8 Rowland Street referred to Section 9.6 of the wetland regulations regarding activity outside of wetlands. She spoke about impacts on aquatic plant and animal life. She referred to the Avalon Bay decision and requested that the Agency consider all of these factors when making final decisions of amending regulations.

Ashworth noted a typo in Section 4.4.

MOTION: To close the public hearing

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

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of May 13, 2009

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 13, 2009

Motion by Sutphen, seconded by Ashworth, so voted unanimously

V. NEW APPLICATIONS

1. Receipt of New Applications

- Merritt Family Farm Invasive Species Eradication, Route 1

Staff distributed documents regarding plans to eradicate invasive vegetation in the old community gardens area of the Merritt Family Farm. Groton Open Space Association has asked for a jurisdictional ruling on this activity.

Martie Young explained the five year process and the organic herbicide she would use to eradicate three invasive species. Once the invasives are removed, the area would be replanted with native grasses.

MOTION: To find that the eradication of invasive plant species on the Merritt Family Forest, Route 1, is a non-regulated use under Section 4.2a of the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Regulations.

Motion made by Block, seconded by Ashworth, so voted 3 in favor, 2 abstentions (Sutphen, Furlong). Motion Passed.

- Leuba Timber Harvest, Sandy Hollow Road

Staff reviewed an ongoing timber harvest on Sandy Hollow Road on the property that the Agency had reviewed for a day care facility. A timber harvest plan has been submitted by CTF Forest Products. Staff noted that no work will extend into the wetlands and the property lines have been flagged. A letter requesting a jurisdictional ruling has been submitted.

MOTION: To find that the Leuba timber harvest, Sandy Hollow Road is permitted as of right under Section 4.1a of the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Regulations

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

VI. PENDING APPLICATIONS

1. Morgan's Run Subdivision, Cow Hill Road

Staff reviewed the plans to build a 3-lot residential subdivision on the east side of Cow Hill Road. She noted that wetlands are located across the street from the property and flow into Bindloss Brook. The regulated activities include new driveways and utilities, as well as a sidewalk if required by the Planning Commission. Staff review will be held next week.

This application was tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting scheduled for June 24, 2009.

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MOTION: To add the item, "Amendments to the Inland Wetland & Watercourses Regulations", to the agenda, under Pending Applications, in order to take action.

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

2. Amendments to the Inland Wetland & Watercourses Regulations

MOTION: To amend Sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 of the Groton Inland Wetland and Watercourses Regulations as submitted and described by application number REGA09-01, in order to reflect legislative changes to the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Act and other applicable state statutes.

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

The Effective date will be August 1, 2009.

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VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Chair

Furlong inquired about a pile of soil and the silt fence at the entrance to the Mill Pond Subdivision. Staff stated that the soil was going to be used for the installation of the sidewalk and will look into the issue of the silt fence.

2. Report of Staff

Staff spoke about a legislative training session that she attended and distributed information regarding recent court decisions.

Staff will get an update regarding Lambtown Road enforcement.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Barbara Block, Secretary
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Robin Silsby
Office Assistant II