

SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
AUGUST 2, 2012 - 1:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Scott at 1:30 p.m.

II. NEW APPLICATIONS

1. Merritt Family Farm (GOSA), Fishtown Road, Jurisdictional Ruling

Russell Parker distributed documentation for his Eagle Scout project, which involves the installation of a walkway across wetlands and a seasonal watercourse, at the Merritt Family Farm on Fishtown Road. While reviewing a map, he explained that the proposal includes the installation of a 20 foot long wooden walkway over a seasonal brook within wetland boundaries. He explained the benefits to building this walkway, which include conserving the surrounding environment and helping to curb erosion. No vegetation would be disturbed. He plans to use untreated lumber. Some stones will be moved by hand and no heavy equipment will be used. He requested that the Agency find that no permit is required. Parker noted that he has 2 years to complete his project. Information was given about the location and vegetation.

Staff stated that she has visited the site. She referred to Wetland Regulations Section 4.2a and explained that certain activities are not regulated by the Wetland Agency. She noted that this project would help to conserve the land.

The Agency agreed that no permit would be required.

Sutphen noted the importance of the public understanding that the Wetland Agency has weighed in on this project. The possibility of installing a sign informing the public was suggested. Furlong expressed concerns about the 1 foot height above the water and the possibility of a damming effect occurring. She would prefer the bridge be 2 feet above the water. Others agreed.

Charles Boos, Stewardship Chairman of the Merritt Family Forest agreed that a damming effect could occur during a storm event. In regards to fastening the bridge to keep it from floating away, he suggested installing cedar poles to keep it in place. The Agency stated that a permit would be required to install poles.

MOTION: To find that the construction and installation of a 20 foot long wooden walkway over a seasonal brook and associated wetlands will not disturb the indigenous character of the wetlands, will not alter water flow, and will not result in the deposition of material in the wetlands. The Agency determines that this activity is permitted as a non-regulated use as defined in section 4.2a of its regulations and does not require a wetland permit.

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Williams

Discussion ensued about the types of wood that could possibly be used.

Vote on the Motion carried unanimously

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Chair

Williams asked Staff to review work being done at the Spicer Boat Yard on Marsh Road.

2. Report of Staff

Staff gave an update about the Crandall enforcement. Referring to an email that she received from Soil Scientist John Ianni, she stated that shrubs that had been transplanted will most likely not survive. Staff stated that Ianni will have a final report for the August 22nd meeting. The Agency will set up a site walk after they receive the formal report from Ianni.

Staff distributed a memo she received from Planning Director Murphy relative to the Town Attorney being present at the next Wetland meeting to give a refresher class on case law for boards and commissions.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m. by Sutphen, seconded by Furlong, so voted unanimously.



David Scott, Chairman
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Robin Silsby
Office Assistant II