



Town of Watertown Connecticut

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Planning and Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission/Inland Wetland Agency

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MINUTES CONSERVATION COMMISSION/ INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT REGULAR MEETING

Time: 7:00 P.M. (7:09 P.M.)
Date: January 13, 2011
Place: Planning and Zoning Office
51 Depot Street, Suite 502
Watertown Connecticut

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M. Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler noted for the record that the meeting was relocated to Planning and Zoning Office at 51 Depot Street, Suite 502, Watertown Connecticut, because the Watertown High School was closed due to the Winter Snow Storm. Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler also noted for the record that a notice has been posted at the High School's main entrance.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Martha Sturgis executed the roll call.

Present: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler
Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini
Mr. Michael Genovese
Mr. Joseph Polletta
Ms. Martha Sturgis
Mr. Brian Benoit

Absent: Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy
Mr. Richard Sarandrea
Mr. Todd Robinson
Ms. Dorota Habib

Also Present: Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Mr. Moosa Rafey
Land Use Secretary, Mr. Chuck Bezio

3. Public Participation

None

4. Action on Minutes

A. Regular Meeting November 18, 2010

B. Regular Meeting December 9, 2010

Bezio He reported that he did not realize that he did not send out both Regular Meeting Minutes until today. Please table items 4A. and B. until next month.

Polletta We should table the minutes till next month.

MOTION: Mr. Michael Genovese moved to table the minutes to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Joseph Polletta.

VOTE

AYES: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Mr. Michael Genovese, Mr. Joseph Polletta; Ms. Martha Sturgis; Mr. Brian Benoit.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 6-0.

5. Pending Applications

Mr. Joseph Polletta recused himself from this application.

A. Application #754 of Giuseppe Polletta for construction of an 860 Sq. Ft addition to an existing barn to be located approximately one foot from an inland wetland at 492 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, CT.

If a public hearing is not held then a decision is required by February 12, 2011.

Undercuffler We were going to have a site walk. Are you going to withdraw this since we did not go out to see it.

Polletta We did not go see it as a Commission but some of the people have gone to see it. I have reviewed this with Moosa before I applied for the activity. We looked to see how far the wetlands are from where the watercourse is. Were the addition is there is asphalt then there is grass then there is a brook. He reported that it was grass when Moosa and he went there together. Has any, of the members gone to the site to inspect the site?

Genovese I did.

Benoit I did.

Undercuffler We were all down there a couple years ago. I don't think anything has changed.

Polletta Ya, right.

Genovese I took a site walk on this. I do not see any difference by putting another cover over. It will not change anything from what it was.

Undercuffler You want to build more than just a cover correct.

Polletta Before it when it was a roof and it was only closed part was next to the house.

Rafey It was a car port.

Polletta I just want to put the tractors, underneath. When I took it down I did not know that I had to get approval. If I told them it was a repair I would not have to spend money and go through all this.

Undercuffler Is this going to have sides?

Polletta I want to put in sides, right on top of the existing foundation walls. If I have to leave it open on the other side than fine. But I do not think it is wetlands.

Rafey Will you only need 2 or 3 posts in the ground? The impact will be, minimum to the wetlands. If you need to dig a foundation or build a wall it would be different.

Benoit I have spoken with Joe about this, you have to put sono tubes to carry the roof, it is not a big deal you can dig them by hand. If you did want to enclose it in you could use the sono tubes and span across and make a pole barn. You do not have to put in a foundation. You would not be impacting the wetlands.

Polletta I do not want to put in a foundation. I want to enclose this because the neighbors have complained about being able to see the tractors.

Rafey The problem I have is I don't know where the limits of wetland are? I have to go by the map that was submitted. When I review the application I review the plan. Based on what was submitted it looks like the addition is only one foot from wetlands.

Orsini I have reviewed the plans and have done a site walk. It is not 1'. The map that was submitted is not correct.

Undercuffler Is it more or less than a foot?

Orsini More. It is well over a foot. It is still in the review area.

Polletta I called the soil scientist but she is unable to determine until after the snow has melted. Winter is not the best time of the year to flag wetlands. He reported that it is belief that the wetlands is about 25' away.

MOTION: Ms. Martha Sturgis declared that this application is not a significant activity because it is not in the wetlands.

SECOND: Mr. Michael Genovese.

VOTE

AYES: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Mr. Michael Genovese; Ms. Martha Sturgis; Mr. Brian Benoit.

NAYS: None

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 5-0.

MOTION: Mr. Michael Genovese moved to approve the application with standard conditions.

SECOND: Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini.

VOTE

AYES: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Mr. Michael Genovese; Ms. Martha Sturgis; Mr. Brian Benoit.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 5-0.

Mr. Joseph Polletta was reelected.

5. New Applications

- A. Application #754 of the Town of Watertown Water and Sewer Authority for installation of 850 linear feet of water main between Shaw Farm Road and Happy Avenue, Oakville, CT.**

If a public hearing is not held then a decision is required by March 18, 2011.

Mr. Catterino

Water and Sewer Authority, Superintendent, Vincent Catterino explained the application to the Commission. He explained that the proposal is for 850 linear feet of water main between Shaw Farm Road and Happy Avenue, Oakville, CT. The water main will be an 8" water main that run from Happy Avenue and Shaw Farm Road. There is only one 6" cast iron pipe that feeds runs up Sunnyside Avenue for 120 customers. We need this water main because of the potential breaks and concerns with fire protection dangers. Customers are experiencing low pleasure, low volume, discolored water hydrant flushing.

Another reason for doing this projects Sunnyside Road reconstruction which will replace 900', 6" cast iron water main. This has been on the books to do for 6 years and it will be a significant improvement for this area. I have submitted a soil scientist report into the record from Cynthia Rabinowitz dated 11/19/10. He reviewed the report with the Commission. He noted that there is not wetlands on the property, there is intermittent watercourse cause by storm drainage from Shaw Farm Road. He explained how the flow of water drains. This is creating gully erosions. They are little ditches that are 6"-8" deep by 1' wide. There are numerous intermittent watercourses that have been flagged and surveyed. We are going to install the pipe and reestablish the grass.

Polletta

Is there pristine wetlands?

Catterino

No.

Polletta

Is than an alternative to what is proposed?

Catterino

I submitted one alternative. It shows the water main going up the street a little down through a real steep part of the property. Our hydrologic model shows that this is the ideal location. It is very difficult to install in any other location than what is proposed. Any areas where there is gully erosion we are going to use rip rap. We are going to restore it original condition and not cause any further erosion.

Undercuffler

He make the recommendations that rain garden be made behind the house to correct the situation allowing the water recharge into the ground rather than running over land causing erosion gullies. Is this part of this project?

Catterino

No. Not this is not part of the project. We are planning to do this. This is a storm drainage problem.

Rafey

Maybe the Public Works Department should look at this. We do not approve things like this no longer. The subdivision off of Shaw Farm Road did not ask for off site detention. We want to manage storm water on site. We do not allow it to just drain on to other people's property. The City of Waterbury boundaries is there. You have to send a notice to the City.

We will also be sending a notice to the City of Waterbury. What happen when you are finished with the pipe, what will happen to the gully? Are you going to create a swale?

Catterino We are going to rip rap. Yes we are going to create a swale. We are going to maintain the current drainage patterns.

Genovese Is this going to be done with the revamping with the whole road? Is this going to be done at the same time as the work on Sunnyside Avenue?

Catterino This will be done prior. I am hoping to put this to bid in March.

Rafey Since the pipe is a town drainage pipe do you want to speak with Public Works, Chuck Berger and explain to him what you want to do with the swale. I would like him to help stabilize the site after the project is complete. How are you going to stabilize the area? I would like if you, Chuck Berger and I meet and review the application and the sedimentation and erosion control. The pipe belongs to Public Works and they should address this when you are working there.

Catterino I have spoke with him already but it is a good idea to get together and go over it.

MOTION: Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini moved to table the application to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Joseph Polletta.

VOTE

AYES: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Mr. Michael Genovese; Mr. Joseph Polletta; Ms. Martha Sturgis; Mr. Brian Benoit.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 6-0.

6. Old Business

A. Notice of Violation issued to the owner of 633 Park Road, Watertown, CT.

MOTION: Mr. Joseph Polletta moved to table the Notice of Violation issued to the owner of 633 Park Road, Watertown, CT to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Michael Genovese.

VOTE

AYES:

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Mr. Michael Genovese; Mr. Joseph Polletta; Ms. Martha Sturgis; Mr. Brian Benoit.

NAYS:

None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 6-0.

7. New Business

A. Proposed amendments to Section 7.11.c, Section 10.9, and Section 10.10 of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut

MOTION: Mr. Joseph Polletta moved to schedule a public hearing for the proposed amendments to Section 7.11.c, Section 10.9, and Section 10.10 of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut for February 10, 2010.

SECOND: Ms. Martha Sturgis.

Discussion:

Rafey

This amendment is concerning properties that have conservation easements. Sometime they are owned by different entities. From now on if we receive an application that proposes activity on a properties that has a conservation easement you should get letter of approval from the entity who owns the easement. If the activity is somewhere on the property but outside the conservation easement you can take the application and review it like a regular application.

The applicant has to send a notice to the holder of the conservation easement 60 days prior to applying for a permit.

VOTE

AYES:

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Mr. Michael Genovese; Mr. Joseph Polletta; Ms. Martha Sturgis; Mr. Brian Benoit.

NAYS:

None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 6-0.

MOTION: Mr. Joseph Polletta moved to table the proposed amendments to Section 7.11.c, Section 10.9, and Section 10.10 of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Michael Genovese.

VOTE

AYES:

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Mr. Michael Genovese; Mr. Joseph Polletta; Ms. Martha Sturgis; Mr. Brian Benoit.

NAYS:

None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 6-0.

9. Communications and Bills

- A. Connecticut Audubon Society letter dated December 14, 2010**
- B. Town Council Appointment Letter to Mr. Edwin Undercuffler dated December 20, 2010**
- C. Town Council Appointment Letter to Mr. Michael Genovese dated December 20, 2010**
- D. Town of Watertown Public Works Department 2010 Annual Report for MS4 Storm Water General Permit.**

MOTION: Mr. Joseph Polletta moved to accept and file the communication and bills.

SECOND: Mr. Michael Genovese.

VOTE

AYES:

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Mr. Michael Genovese; Mr. Joseph Polletta; Ms. Martha Sturgis; Mr. Brian Benoit.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 6-0.

10. Reports from Officers and Committees

None

11. Reports from Staff

A. Agent Determination

- 1. Town of Watertown Public Works Department Memorandum concerning construction of a driveway and parking and channel cleaning for conversion of Hemingway School to Town Offices.**

Rafey

He gave a report to the Commission. He advised the Commission that he received a Memorandum from the Public Works Department concerning construction of a driveway and parking and channel cleaning for conversion of Hemingway School to Town Offices. The Town has an application before the Planning and Zoning Commission for a site plan approval. The town wants to add parking spaces and a new driveway to go in front of the school. The Planning and Zoning Commission had a site walk and noticed that there is a watercourse on the eastside of the building behind the basket ball court.

Sturgis

Can you see that from the road?

Rafey

No. You need to go to the northeast corner of the property to see the brook to see the debris. As a condition of approval they want the Public Works Department to remove the items from the brook. I received the Memorandum from the Public Works Department and I went on a site walk with Chuck Berger. They need to remove the debris by hand by a few guys.

We have not been able to figure out why this channel was created. There was running water in the channel at the time we were there. This is a watercourse and needs to be treated as such.

Polletta

Who is going to maintain this in the future?

Rafey

This is town property, and they plan to build the greenway there. The regulated activity is only to remove the items from the watercourse only.

12. Public Participation

None

13. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Michael Genovese moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Joseph Polletta.

VOTE


AYES:

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Mr. Michael Genovese; Mr. Joseph Polletta; Ms. Martha Sturgis; Mr. Brian Benoit.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 6-0.

Attest:



Tom Murphy, Secretary
Conservation Commission
Inland/Wetland Agency