



Town of Watertown Connecticut

51 Depot Square Business Center

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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. (7:04 P.M.)

Date: November 18, 2010

Place: Watertown High School Lecture Hall
324 French Street
Watertown Connecticut

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy executed the roll call.

Present: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler
Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini
Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy
Mr. Michael Genovese
Ms. Martha Sturgis
Mr. Richard Sarandrea (7:06 P.M.)
Mr. Joseph Polletta (7:09 P.M.)

Absent: Mr. Brian Benoit
Mr. Todd Robinson
Ms. Dorota Habib

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

3. Public Participation

None

4. Action on Minutes

A. Regular Meeting October 14, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Michael Genovese moved to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Ms. Martha Sturgis.

VOTE

AYES:

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy; Mr. Michael Genovese; Ms. Martha Sturgis.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 5-0.

5. Pending Applications

A. Application #746 of Seimon Realty Company for removing vegetation, sediment, and debris from Steele Brook at 27 Seimon Company Drive, Watertown.

If a public hearing is not held then a decision is required by December 18, 2010.

Mr. Richard Sarandrea arrived at 7:06 P.M.

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler seated Mr. Richard Sarandrea for Mr. Joseph Polletta.

Mr. Bartos

Mike Bartos an engineer at Land-Tech Consultant, Inc. was present and explained the application to the Commission. The Commission asked last month that we look at the ability to enhance the habitat within the river. We looked at placing boulders, creating deep holes by excavating, or ripple a typical wetland habitat for fishery. This alternatives run against the purpose of the project. It will jeopardize our permit with the DEP. I gave Moosa a letter explaining the options that were considered. We have been unable to come up with any feasible alternatives. We have spoken with Don Myseling with the DEP and has agreed that these alternatives are not feasible.

He recommended that we hang plant vines on top of the retaining wall and let them grown down the face of the retaining wall to the water. We reviewed his recommendations and have determined that this is exactly what we are trying to remediate. We have a problem with the vegetation growing into the masonry and destroying the wall. Based on this we have no alternatives. When we get into the permit process with the DEP I am going to ask them if we can place a few boulders within the watercourses without having to do a major flood study to justify it. I don't believe they will let us but we will ask. If we do any excavation it will threaten and undermining the walls.

Mr. Joseph Polletta arrived at 7:09 P.M.

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler seated Mr. Richard Sarandrea for Mr. Brian Benoit.

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler read the following letter from Land-Tech Consultants into the record:

November 17,2010

Mr. Moosa Rafey
Wetland Enforcement Officer
Town of Watertown
51 Depot Square Business Center, Suite 502
Watertown, CT 06795-2200

Re: Siemon Realty Property
Watertown, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Rafey:

As requested by the Watertown Conservation Commission / Inland Wetlands Agency, we have evaluated possible measures for the enhancement of Steele Brook on the Siemon Realty property in association with the proposed application for repair work along the brook.

Typical measures used to enhance fish habitat include physical modifications to stream morphology to create variable water depths and the addition of in-water structures to create habitat or cover for fish, or to modify flow regimes. These measures can include the placement of materials into the active stream channel to create fish habitat (i.e. boulder clusters, weirs, vanes, rootwads, spawning gravel) or actual manipulation of the active stream channel itself to improve fish habitat (i.e. create pools or riffles, trap gravel).

Addition of streamside plantings can also be used to provide shade and cover for fish. It is our opinion that these enhancement measures are incompatible with the goal of repairing and stabilizing the existing walls along both sides of the stream. Therefore, we would not recommend their use.

We contacted Don Myseling at Connecticut DEP Fisheries for additional ideas for stream enhancement. Mr. Myseling suggested that vine plantings could be used along the top of the retaining wall to provide some streamside vegetated cover. Since penetration of roots and climbing tendrils could accelerate deterioration of the existing mortar, we would not recommend vine plantings along the retaining wall.

Sincerely,

Christopher Allan
Senior Associate

Mr. Undercuffler So you don't believe that the DEP will allow a few boulders in the watercourse. Why would that be, though?

Mr. Bartos Because the channel has limited flood capacity. During the 100' flood it would over top the retaining wall and flood the parking lot.

Mr. Rafey Will the Army Corp and DEP be involved in this project?

Ms. Knickerbocker Paul Knickerbocker, president of the Siemon Realty Company was present and advised the Commission that he has spoken with Army Corp and DEP and filled applications with them. Army Corp will not be involved in this project they have declared this a category #1 project.

Mr. Rafey Since the DEP is reviewing this application; if they see something that should be done they will require it. This project is something that needs to be done.

Mr. Undercuffler Ya, we don't need the building falling down.

MOTION: Ms. Martha Sturgis moved to approve the application subject to standard conditions.

SECOND: Mr. Michael Genovese.

VOTE

AYES:

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy; Mr. Michael Genovese, Mr. Joseph Polletta, Mr. Richard Sarandrea; Ms. Martha Sturgis.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 7-0.

- B. Application #747 of the Town of Watertown Department of Public Works to permit the removal of accumulated sediments form two sediment ponds located upstream of Echo Lake on Ice House Road, Watertown.**

If a public hearing is not held then a decision is required by December 18, 2010.

Mr. Undercuffler

Town Engineer, Chuck Berger is not hear tonight. They are not going to be working on this over the winter. I recommend that this be tabled to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

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

SECOND: Mr. Michael Genovese.

VOTE

AYES:

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy; Mr. Michael Genovese, Mr. Joseph Polletta, Mr. Richard Sarandrea; Ms. Martha Sturgis.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 7-0.

- C. Application #748 of the Town of Watertown Department of Public Works for installation of new drainage pipe in Warner Avenue and Hillcrest Avenue, Oakville.**

If a public hearing is not held then a decision is required by December 18, 2010.

Mr. Joseph Polletta left at 7:16 P.M.

Mr. Undercuffler Town Engineer, Chuck Berger is not hear tonight. They are not going to be working on this over the winter. I recommend that this be tabled to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

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

SECOND: Mr. Michael Genovese.

VOTE

AYES: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy; Mr. Michael Genovese, Mr. Richard Sarandrea; Ms. Martha Sturgis.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 6-0.

Mr. Joseph Polletta returned at 7:17 P.M.

6. New Applications

A. Application #753 of Dan Houghton for construction of an addition to an existing single-family dwelling at 184 Platt Road, Watertown, CT.

If a public hearing is not held then a decision is required by January 22, 2011.

Mr. Carlotto Aldo Carlotto of 351 Killorin Road, Watertown CT the General Contractor for applicant Dan Houghton was present and explained the application to the Commission. This is to put on a 240 sq. ft. addition on the back of the residence. When the building was built there was on 50' wetland offset. The Commission has modified there regulations and there is now 100' wetland's offsets. The addition will be 55' from the wetlands. He reviewed the plot plan with the Commission. He advised the Commission that there is a significant amount of wetlands on the parcel. There is no other feasible alternative because the front of the home is the bedrooms while the kitchen and the living space is in rear of the building.

The kitchen currently is in the middle of the home. We would like to put the kitchen in the addition.

Mr. Houghton Dan Houghton of 48 Partridge Court, Watertown CT was present and advised the Commission that the kitchen is very small in the middle of the home.

Mr. Carlotto The home was originally built for a retired couple and now it will be for a family of five. We are going to excavate about 50 yard of material that we will be brought off site. He explained the sedimentation and erosion control measures to the Commission.

Mr. Houghton The addition will be 10' x 24', 240 sq. ft. We are not living in this house yet. We are trying to get into this house but we need the construction done first.

Mr. Rafey This was Mr. Dwaine George's house. I have been there many times. There is a large wetland system with a watercourse running through this property. Is there anyone interested in going to see this?

MOTION: Mr. Joseph Polletta moved to declare this application not a significant activity.

SECOND: Ms. Martha Sturgis.

VOTE

AYES: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy; Mr. Michael Genovese, Joseph Polletta, Mr. Richard Sarandrea; Ms. Martha Sturgis.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 7-0.

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

SECOND: Mr. Michael Genovese.

VOTE

AYES: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy; Mr. Michael Genovese, Joseph Polletta, Mr. Richard Sarandrea; Ms. Martha Sturgis.

AYES: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy; Mr. Michael Genovese, Joseph Polletta, Mr. Richard Sarandrea; Ms. Martha Sturgis.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 7-0.

B. Conservation Commission/ Inland Wetlands Agency Meeting Dates for year 2011

MOTION: Mr. Joseph Polletta moved to approve the meeting dates.

SECOND: Ms. Martha Sturgis.

VOTE

AYES: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy; Mr. Michael Genovese, Joseph Polletta, Mr. Richard Sarandrea; Ms. Martha Sturgis.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 7-0.

9. Communications and Bills

A. The Habitat A newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. Fall 2010 Volume 22 Number 3

B. State of Connecticut DOT notification of Application to DEP for General Permit for Water Resources Construction Activities for construction of a bridge on Route 6 over Steele Brook, Watertown, CT.

C. Connecticut Federation of Planning and Zoning Agencies Quarterly Newsletter Fall 2010 Volume XIV Issue 4

MOTION: Mr. Joseph Polletta moved to accept and file the Communication and Bills.

SECOND: Ms. Martha Sturgis.

VOTE

AYES: Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy; Mr. Michael Genovese, Joseph Polletta, Mr. Richard Sarandrea; Ms. Martha Sturgis.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 7-0.

10. Reports from Officers and Committees
None

11. Reports from Staff
A. Agent Determination

1. Application #751 of Susan Buso for construction of a 14'X24' shed within upland review area at 244 Cutler Street, Watertown, CT.

Mr. Rafey He reported this agent determination to the Commission. In your packet there is a copy of the plot plan. This application is for a shed. The shed will be 70' from the small stream going through the back of the property.

2. Town of Watertown Department of Public Works request to remove a beaver dam from top of Hemingway Pond Dam near Echo Lake Road, Watertown.

Mr. Rafey He reported this agent determination to the Commission. I received an e-mail from the Town Engineer Chuck Berger regarding some beaver activities on a dam on the spillway at Heminway Pond Dam. It is an emergency situation and the Town wanted to remove the beaver dam to eliminate flooding problems.

12. Public Participation
None

13. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Michael Genovese moved to adjourn at 7:45 P.M.

SECOND: Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy.

VOTE

AYES:

Chairman, Mr. Edwin Undercuffler; Vice Chairman, Mr. Donato Orsini; Secretary, Mr. Thomas Murphy; Mr. Michael Genovese, Joseph Polletta, Mr. Richard Sarandrea; Ms. Martha Sturgis.

NAYS: None.

MOTION UNANIMOUS PASS T 7-0.

Attest:

Tom Murphy, Secretary
Conservation Commission
Inland/Wetland Agency