

# MINUTES

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION/ INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY WATERTOWN, CT SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008  
WATERTOWN HIGHSCHOOL LIBRARY

**Members Present:** Mr. Tony DiBona  
Mr. Joe Polletta  
Mr. Ed Undercuffler, Chairman  
Mr. Donato Orsini, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Glen Dupliese, Interim Secretary

**Members Absent:** Mr. Tom Murphy, Secretary  
Mr. Jim Zawadzki

**Alternates Present:** Ms. Martha Sturgis – In for Jim Zawadzki  
Ms. Denise Russ – In for Tom Murphy  
Mr. Michael Brown

**Alternates Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Mr. Moosa Rafey, Assistant Zoning Enforcement Officer  
Mr. Chuck Berger, Town Engineer

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Undercuffler, Chairman, Called the Special Meeting to Order at about 7:00PM

### 2. Roll Call

Mr. Duplissie executed the Roll Call.

### 3. Public Participation

None

### 4. Pending Applications

- A. Application #630 of the Watertown Board of Education to conduct regulated activities associated with the construction of additions and renovations to Polk Elementary School 435 Buckingham Street, Oakville, CT.

If a public hearing is not held then a decision is required by April 9, 2008.

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**Todd Lofresse, Assistant Superintendent Watertown Board of Education**

**Joe DiCarlo, Landscape Architect, Kaestle Boos Associates**

Mr. DiCarlo is an agent for the board of education and explained the wetland situation on the property. They are proposing to put a 288 square foot plunge pool in the water course to stop the downstream erosion. There was about 3900 Sq. Ft of upland review area that ends up getting disturbed and will be restored to the condition it is in now. The pavement would be re-paved, the lawn areas will be re-established, and the plunge pool will go into the water course up against the head wall. He submitted an updated survey plan.

Mr. Berger explained the memo the commissioner's received was dated February 13, 2008 from he to Ruth and is his Planning and Zoning review. He felt for the CCIWA there were a couple of things to be focused on which include the impact to wetlands and water courses in the upland review area. On page 3 of his memo item #16 showed discrepancy on the plunge pool area and Mr. DiCarlo has used a larger number as proposed. Mr. Berger also explained that if the plunge pool were to turn out a little smaller that would be fine but could not go larger without commission's approval. The Erosion Control Plan sheet and Erosion Control Details are minor technical things that could be subject to the town engineer and assistant zoning enforcement officer's final review and approval. No construction could start before a pre-construction meeting was held. Mr. Berger also spoke about item number 16 that indicated there were some inconsistencies between what was shown on the plan in front of the commission currently and a Detail Sheet later in the plan set. He felt the Detail Sheet was more accurate but depicts a larger plunge pool. The numbers given at the meeting were larger than the footprint shown. Any changes through planning and zoning that would impact wetlands and water courses they would have to go back to the conservation commission for a modification.

**Motion was made by Mr. Polletta to approve application #630 subject to standard conditions and conditions discussed including:**

- 1. Erosion Control Details will be subject to the town engineer and assistant zoning enforcement officer review and approval.*
- 2. To fine tune sediment control plan and sequence of construction and no activity begins before a pre-construction meeting is held.*
- 3. Any changes as a result of the Planning and Zoning process that impacts wetlands and water courses must return to the Conservation Commission Inland/Wetland Agency for modification.*

**Seconded by Mr. Duplissie.**

**Discussion: None    Vote: 7 in favor    Abstained: 0    Opposed: 0**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY – NO FURTHER DISCUSSION**

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- B. Application #631 of the Watertown Board of Education to conduct regulated activities associated with the construction of additions and renovations to Watertown High School 324 French Street, Watertown, CT.

If a public hearing is not held then a decision is required by April 9, 2008.

**Joe DiCarlo, Landscape Architect, Kaestle Boos Associates**

**Mr. DiCarlo:** Part of the increase in the recreational area behind the high school there is some additional slope work being done which has to be drained and we have some stone wedges in the slopes to intercept ground water as well as some utility structures and this is going to be piped down across the fire district land to Steel Brook. What that does is impact the upland review area which I have shaded slightly in red on the plan. It's approximately 2,400 Sq. Ft of upland review area that again we'd pipe intercepting storm water and piping it over to the top of the embankment of Steel Brook because of the fine nature of the embankment. The wetlands are very close to the brook itself so we aren't actually entering into the wetlands itself we're simply in the upland review area. We're disturbing about 2,400 Sq. Ft to get this pipe in and again a plunge pool at the outlet of the pipe.

**Mr. Rafey:** How large is the plunge pool?

**Mr. DiCarlo:** Its 12 feet by 15 feet.

**Mr. Duplissie:** Are you confident when you're building your terraces and you are coming back out; inside is the actual low point of the terrace correct?

**Mr. DiCarlo:** Correct, the slope will come down and then there will be what we call a bench which is a flat area but it actually pitches back towards the embankment itself about 4 to 6 inches and then that in itself is ribboned so there are low points with collector basins on that. All of these are being piped as well as built into the embankment at the very bottom of each one of these slopes is what we call a stone wedge which is an area of crushed stone with a perforated pipe to catch ground water so it doesn't push the top soil off of the slope and that gets intercepted. Those run to the same basins which are all collected and are piped and have to come out somewhere which we are here about. It comes out down by Steel Brook.

**Mr. Duplissie:** What type of soil are you using to terrace this? I know we discussed this the last time that you were going to start at the bottom to build this rather than push from the top.

**Mr. DiCarlo:** It's a long and involved process and it starts with the installation of sediment and erosion control measures to protect the Steel Brook itself and then there would be a meeting where all parties would be present and we would define the

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sequencing and the exact limits of the work we are going to be doing. Then the sediment and erosion control measures I've put in place and then the clearing will begin. The work

of building the new slope would start at the bottom and work up. It would require clean fill being brought in, compacted, and tested by an independent testing agency and at Mr. Berger's suggestion the town would have its geo-technical engineer on site to make sure it's being done right. The slope would be raised to that first flat area and then the storm drainage systems would be installed. The base material would be what is called tract. They take a tract vehicle and drive it up and down the embankment to create indentations and then top soil is spread over that .and then protective matting. I believe I submitted a copy of the matting that we use, erosion control matting, to protect the slope. Then it's hydro seeded and then the bench is established and then they move up the slope in that manner.

**Mr. Duplissie:** So you will hydro seed at each bench or you're going to do 2 or 3?

**Mr. DiCarlo:** They won't leave it open for very long. I can't say they will just do one but that's a possibility. You still have to cross these areas so some of it would be left open but we want to minimize any open exposed soil as much as possible during the construction process.

**Mr. Duplissie:** When you strip this area you are going to take all the trees down, cut all of these at once, take the stumps out, and then strip the top soil first.

**Mr. DiCarlo:** That's correct and then we will bring fill and compact it.

**Mr. Duplissie:** Chuck you have seen the sequence? Is that in their plans? Or they will submit those to you if they are not complete yet?

**Mr. Berger:** I would like to see more detail in the plan. But at this point in time what the applicant is saying is the best time to do that is after the contractor is hired. Pre construction meetings will be held before any activity is started. Detailed sequence of construction will be established and given the height and proximity to Steel Brook I am recommending the town's geo-technical engineer be actively involved in this so that it is stable at all times.

**Mr. Duplissie:** If we say yes, then after that we have lost control. So I think as long as you are willing to jump on board with it and say you will be more difficult than we are then I'll be content to get away with it tonight because I know this has to move forward.

**Mr. Berger:** I am, but I think you should get that assurance form the applicant. What I'm going to be looking for are the items in my memo outlined in the erosion control plan and oversight by the geo-technical engineer.

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**Mr. Rafey:** As a part of the standard conditions that I always put in the permit is that the final plan has to be reviewed and approved by the town agency and staff including Mr. Berger and myself.

**Mr. DiCarlo:** I believe a normal order of conditions is free access for a representative of the wetlands commission, the engineer, and anyone from the town in an official capacity. They have a right of access to see what's going on at any time. The only part that we haven't defined the sequence in more detail is just as Mr. Berger said that the town has a construction manager that is going to oversee the construction activity. The site portion would be bid to a site contractor. So I can't say we're going to do certain things and then it turns out the guy doesn't have the equipment to do it that fast so we wait until the contractor is on board so he has a specific sequence. He will be made aware that it's a very deep concern of the town.

**Mr. Rafey:** So that will be a condition of approval to submit a final sequence of construction. The two other issues we have discussed include the outlet area. Is that owned by the fire district? The wetland commission can not approve a wetland activity on some one else's property if there is not permission or easement.

**Mr. Berger:** We've been working on a concept for a greenway project along this tract of Steel Brook. A majority of that is surrounding the old railroad right of way that exists through there. Downstream of the bridge to the old sewer treatment plant I am not sure where the property line is and I suspect someone else owns a strip of land through there or has rights to it. I had states that when we were out there in the field and they have relocated the outlet to the upstream side of the bridge which although I'm not 100%, I am more confident that is fire district property. If it's not, they are either going to have to move it or get a drainage easement.

**Mr. DiCarlo:** There was a letter signed by Mike Tanus agreeing that we have right of access and permission to fill and do a drainage activity across the land.

**Mr. Rafey:** On the fire district I got a signed agreement but my concern was about that other piece that we are not sure who owns it. I don't want the commission to approve something on somebody's property without knowing. But this can be changed in case that the fire district does not own that piece than you can move it upstream of the bridge.

**Mr. DiCarlo:** That's what we are proposing now because we have moved it since the last plan.

**Mr. Polletta:** Are you talking about where the old sewage treatment plan is?

**Mr. DiCarlo:** The old sewage treatment plant is right off the plan.

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**Mr. Berger:** On page 2 of my memo we were just talking about item number 5 the outlet of that 15 inch reinforced concrete pipe. Item number 6 is another issue that I'll leave you with Moosa to talk about and that is over in the far left hand corner of this plan here, you see some wetlands. There is an outlet pipe that drains to that from the high school that is resulting in significant active ongoing erosion in that wetland area. We did a field walk about a week or so ago and it's 8 to 10 feet deep, vertical side slope of exposed earth that needs to be fixed. I think Moosa will suggest that we do that separately.

**Mr. Rafey:** My suggestion from the last time was if the commission can make a decision on this application because they need the approval as soon as possible but that issue should be subject of a new application later on as mitigation to this plan that you approve that they submit another application to fix that problem.

**Mr. Duplissie:** So that pipe is current? That does not have to be changed?

**Mr. Berger:** The pipe does not have to be changed but they are changing the drainage to the catch basin just upstream of the outlet. There is a catch basin that they are tying into with drainage.

**Mr. Undercuffler:** Do I have a motion?

**Motion was made by Mr. Duplissie to approve application #631 subject to standard conditions and conditions discussed including:**

- 1. Erosion Control Details and final detailed sequence of construction will be submitted by Mr. DiCarlo and will be subject to the town engineer, town staff and assistant zoning enforcement officer review and approval.*
- 2. To fine tune sediment control plan and sequence of construction and no activity begins before a pre-construction meeting is held.*
- 3. Any changes as a result of the Planning and Zoning process that impacts wetlands and water courses must return to the Conservation Commission Inland/Wetland Agency for modification.*
- 4. Given the height and proximity to Steel Brook the town's geo-technical engineer is to be actively involved to contain stability.*
- 5. The far left corner where wetlands are, the outlet pipe draining from the high school is resulting in significant active ongoing erosion in the wetland area and is 8 to 10 feet deep with a vertical side slope and exposed earth that needs to be fixed. This issue will be subject to a new application to add mitigation to the current plan.*

**Seconded by Mr. Polletta.**

**Discussion: None    Vote: 7 in favor    Abstained: 0    Opposed: 0**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY – NO FURTHER DISCUSSION**

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**5. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Mr. Duplissie to accept adjourn the special meeting at 7:31 PM and seconded Ms. Russ.**

**Discussion: None    Vote: 7 in favor    Abstained: 0    Opposed: 0**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY – NO FURTHER DISCUSSION**

Attest,

Edwin Undercuffler, Chairman  
Conservation Commission  
Inland/Wetland Agency Chairman

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Jennifer Guerrero, Minutes Secretary