

MINUTES

CONSERVATION COMMISSION/ INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY WATERTOWN, CT PUBLIC HEARING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007, 2007
WATERTOWN HIGHSCHOOL TECHNOLOGY CENTER

APPLICATION #621 – HENLOPEN MANUFACTURING

- Members Present:** Mr. Jim Zawadzki, Chairman
Mr. Donato Orsini, Vice Chairman
Mr. Joe Polletta
Mr. Ed Undercuffler
- Members Absent:** Mr. Glen Dupliese
Mr. Tom Murphy, Secretary
Mr. Tony DiBona
- Alternates Present:** Mr. Michael Brown – In for Mr. Tony DiBona
- Alternates Absent:** Ms. Denise Russ
- Others Present:** Mr. Moosa Rafey, Assistant Wetlands Enforcement Officer
Mr. Chuck Berger, Town Engineer
Mr. Chris Allan from Land Tech Consultants, Inc.

1. Call Meeting To Order

Mr. Zawadzki, Chairman, Called the Public Hearing to Order at about 9:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Zawadzki, Chairman, executed the Roll Call.

3. Hearing of Cases

- C. Application #621 of Henlopen Manufacturing for wetland remediation and restoration on Henlopen property located at 401 Park Road, Watertown, CT.

Public Hearing must be closed by January 24, 2008 unless applicant grants an extension of time.

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Mr. Zawadzki read the Legal Notice as follows:

**“TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Legal Notice”**

The Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency of the Town of Watertown will hold a public hearing at 7:00PM on Thursday, December 20, 2007 at Watertown High School Technology Center 324 French Street, Watertown, CT to hear and act upon the following applications deemed a significant activity by the Conservation Commission/ Inland Wetland Agency pursuant to Section 2.1 (dd1-7) of the Watertown Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations.

Application #621 of Henlopen Manufacturing to conduct the following regulated activities associated with the wetland remediation and restoration on Henlopen Manufacturing Property located at 401 Park Road, Watertown, CT in an IR-200 Restricted Industrial Zoning District:

1. Disturbance of approximately 1,530 Sq. Ft of wetland and 16,630 Sq. Ft of upland review area for excavation and removal of contaminated soils.
2. Installation of erosion and sediment control measures within wetlands and upland review area.

Dated at Watertown, CT this 29th day of November 2007

Dated at Watertown, CT this 6th day of December 2007

Tom Murphy, Secretary
Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency”

Discussion:

James Pfeiffer, Environmental Resources Management

Mr. Pfeiffer: I am here on behalf of Henlopen manufacturing. We had a minor modification to application #610. We actually had a reduction in the disturbance of areas B and C. We have the revised figures we just gave you and we just wanted to get that on the record. We’ll need to come back and modify that because we were not aware that a new application could not be added to the special meeting.

Anne McManomy, ERM

Ms. McManomy: I had a package together that had the plans in it that I just pulled out so you’d have them here in front of you. The plans are also pertinent to the public hearing before you tonight for application #621.

Mr. Pfeiffer: We actually modified the areas that we’re going to be working on in wetland B and C and actually reduce the areas we’re going to be impacting. So to give

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some background we are doing a remedial activity here that is required by the state of Connecticut and we are doing a positive thing. The wetland areas B and C have been impacted by a release of contaminants from the former Henlopen manufacturing facility. Those contaminants are chlorinated solvents and what we're trying to accomplish here is to remove those contaminants from these wetland areas as well as some adjacent upland areas that have also been impacted. In order to do that we are going to removing soil and sediment from these areas and then replacing that material after we're completed. We will be collecting samples after we're done to confirm the clean closer of these areas but we are going to have to disturb the wetlands to do that. So we're here tonight to try and get your approval on that activity so that we can get it going as soon as possible and in this season if possible.

Ms. McManomy: The work in wetlands B and C remains the same as when we filed the application. That is a total of 1, 105 Sq. Ft which is the full area of each of those two small isolated wetlands we'll need to excavate. The revision was to the 50 Ft. buffer zone area. We've been able to re-work our work zones there and shrink the footprint of activity. So we've reduced it by shy of 3,000 Sq. Ft of our work in the 50 foot upland buffer zone. So the total number of square footage of activity in that zone is 13,385 Sq. Ft. I'd be happy to speak to the restoration component of it if there are any questions. We did take the board consultants suggestion that we create a connection between wetlands A and B. Due to this we have a net increase in the amount of wetlands on the site from the existing conditions now by 425 Sq. Ft. That area will also be planted with a wooded community.

Mr. Zawadzki: Ok and just briefly describe what the process is and then we'll go from there in case anyone from the public is interested in hearing that part.

Mr. Pfeiffer: Sure, with wetlands A, B, C we are going to come in and physically remove the contaminated materials down to a certain depth. We've conducted an investigation of these areas over the last several years to get to this point where we understand what needs to be done to meet the requirements of the state regulatory program the remediation standard of regulations. In order to comply with that program we need to get the concentrations of chlorinated solvents that are present in these wetlands and the associated upland areas below a certain threshold. We looked at several ways of doing that. We came to the conclusion that although it's a temporary impact of the wetland in order to dig this stuff out that was the best way to address these materials. There are ways to remediate these types of materials of chlorinated solvents and other volatile organic compounds. But the impact of the wetland would have been pretty significant. We would have killed a lot of vegetation trees and so on so actually removing the soil it's a more permanent solution by removing the ongoing source of contamination. We will go in with excavation equipment and enter these areas through designated roadways that are included in the calculations you heard. We will remove the soil, load the soil in the trucks, it will be taken up those same roads, and temporarily stocked piled in the parking lot on the north east side of the building about 300 – 400 feet away form the actual wetlands that we are going to be disturbing. The area that we will be staging soil is

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completely paved. Any soil that is staged on site will be a temporary staging process and it will be placed on plastic and under plastic for the entire time it is on the property to avoid any potential erosion issue during rains events or other things. That soil would then be taken off site once we had the permits in place with a disposal facility for disposal and or treatment. Then comes in the restoration of the area which will include bringing in like soil and so on. It'll be brought up to its original grade and be reestablished to its natural state as much as possible.

Ms. McManomy: I think the key to the restoration work is that it would be overseen in the field everyday by a wetlands scientist that would work with the equipment operator to get he grades that we need and the placement of the plants. It would be monitored for 5 years post restoration with annual monitoring reports submitted to this board as well as Connecticut DEP and Army Core of Engineers. There are success standards that Army Core requires us to evaluate whether we are meeting the restoration goals.

Mr. Zawadzki: Are you actually going to do a grid to locate the boulders and things like that to more or less where they are?

Ms. McManomy: It gets a little creative and it wouldn't be trying to locate them this way in the exact same spot but a similar amount of them within the same general region. It's trying to create a similar habitat setting or if not more improved.

Mr. Pfeiffer: I think what you're referring to in the grid is actually our characterization of these areas. We grid these areas up and collected soil samples to really make sure we understood where the contaminants were to guide us into where we actually had to excavate. We were successful in identifying very accurately where we are going to have to dig this soil out and in some cases not even have to collect post samples because the data that we collected prior to excavation will serve that purpose.

Mr. Polletta: You're going to treat that material and whatever you take out you'll bring fresh material or you'll re use the same material on site?

Ms. McManomy: We'll purchase suitable plantable soils for the restoration areas. We think it's very shallow in depth.

Mr. Pfeiffer: The shallow soils at this site are about 6 to 12 inches depending where you are and have a high organic content. That type of soil tends to bind up the contaminants more than the underlying sandier soil. So those materials more than likely will leave the site. We won't be able to treat or re use that material on site. That stuff will go off site. The deeper material that we will be pulling out will generally have lower concentrations of solvents. We do have a potential option of treating the material on site as opposed to removing it from the site. I think we more than likely won't end up doing that because I think based on our calculations and the amount of soil we're going to have it will be more economically feasible to remove it from the site. But the regulations do allow us to reuse treated soil back on the property now. We would be replacing essentially the same

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wetland soils back into the wetland once they were treated and they were cleaned. So we would not replace those soils unless they were remediated to meet the requirements of the state regulations. If we end up not using any soil we would bring in soil that was appropriate for this type of use for replanting and bringing it up to grade again.

Mr. Zawadzki: Any comments from the public for or against this application?

Mr. Polletta: Can we close this?

Mr. Zawadzki: Yes, we need a motion. Is there anything else you'd like to mention?

Mr. McManomy: It's pretty straight forward like the previous application.

Mr. Zawadzki: Ok so I need a motion to close the public hearing on application #621

Mr. Polletta: So move.

Mr. Undercuffler: Second.

Mr. Zawadzki: All in favor?

Everyone: Aye.

Mr. Zawadzki: Opposed?

NONE

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY – NO FURTHER DISCUSSION

MOTION: (Mr. Polletta, sec. Mr. Undercuffler) to close the public hearing for application #621 of Henlopen Manufacturing for wetland remediation and restoration on Henlopen property located at 401 Park Road, Watertown, CT.

Public Hearing Closed at about 9:30PM (No time given).

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Zawadzki, Chairman
Conservation Commission
Inland/Wetland Agency Chairman

Jennifer Guerrero, Minutes Secretary

