

TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2024

Present for the online web conference were Acting Chair Isner, Commissioners Berlandy, Fox, Kelsey, Simpson, Statchen. Sr. Assistant Town Planner Cyr and Clerk Michaud were also present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present in the Development Conference Room was Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr and Clerk Michaud. All others were present online.

Commissioner Statchen stated for the record he listened to the January 17, 2024 meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Peter Petrossi – 1637 Farmington Avenue

Regulated activity within wetlands for removal of existing stone culvert to replace with 120 feet of 42-inch HDPE pipe. Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr provided photos taken on January 10, 2024 and reviewed notes of the site walk conducted on January 27, 2024. Mr. Petrossi reviewed the proposed scope of work proposed to replace the stone culvert with a new 42in HDPE pipe, to be extended approximately 25ft beyond the existing stone culvert headwalls on both the inlet and outlet, and the installation of flared ends and associated regrading. Acting Chair Isner explained the determination of significance process to Mr. Petrossi. The Commissioners discussed the pipe size and the proposed extension of the culvert, along with the need for erosion control. Mr. Petrossi was asked to consider reducing the length of the pipe on the eastern end of the culvert by approximately twenty feet. A motion was then made and seconded to make the determination the Peter Petrossi application was a regulated non-significant activity and did not require a public hearing with a vote of two in favor to 4 opposed. The motion failed.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Statchen/Kelsey) it was

VOTED: 5 in favor (Berlandy, Fox, Isner, Kelsey, Simpson) to 1 opposed (Statchen) to make the determination that the Peter Petrossi application for regulated activity within wetlands for removal of existing stone culvert to replace with 120 feet of 42-inch HDPE pipe at 1637 Farmington Avenue is a regulated significant activity and requires a public hearing. The motion passed.

The public hearing will be scheduled for March 6, 2024.

Jennifer Gupta – 70 Woodpond Road

Regulated activity within upland review area to construct a detached garage. Ms. Gupta stated she is proposing to construct a detached garage in her backyard at the NW corner of the existing home. The 22'x24' two-car garage, with pool house on the second floor, is proposed five feet from the western property line. Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr provided aerial photos of the site to clarify the proposed location of the garage and driveway extension, proximity to the lake, and the storm drainage culvert and brook on the adjoining westerly property (88 Woodpond

Road). The Commissioners discussed the garage to be used for normal residential use and storage only. Commissioners commented the plan does not show grading, proposed drainage improvements, and the width and material for the proposed driveway.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Statchen/Berlandy) it was unanimously

VOTED: To make the determination the Jennifer Gupta application for regulated activity within upland review area to construct detached garage at 70 Woodpond Road is a regulated non-significant activity and does not require a public hearing.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Statchen/Berlandy) it was unanimously

VOTED: To table the decision of the Jennifer Gupta application for regulated activity within upland review area to construct detached garage at 70 Woodpond Road until the February 21, 2024 meeting.

The applicant was asked to provide updated plans with more details regarding dealing with stormwater runoff from both the driveway and roof, grading, and additional plantings.

#### Cease & Desist – 504 Main Street

Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr stated staff have been working with the owner of 504 Main Street and he has submitted a potential future parking lot plan including proposed plantings within the upland review area. The Commission had requested the feasibility parking layout in order to review the planting plan within the Upland Review Area (“URA”) only and minimize any potential future conflicts. The parking lot will require separate permitting with both the CIWC and the TPZ at a future time. The possible future application for a parking lot will also require a landscape planting plan in accordance with the Zoning Regulations, to be submitted at the time of permitting. Plantings proposed are Shadblow / Service Berry, Black Chokeberry, Gray Dogwood, Northern Brush Honeysuckle and four decorative trees to be determined. Proposed ground cover will consist of New England Erosion Control/Restoration Seed Mix. The Commissioners were generally in support of the proposed restoration plan with the understanding planting occurs as early as possible during the 2024 spring planting season and they are monitored/guaranteed for three years. Mr. Hidri indicated he is close to closing on the lot immediately south of 504 Main Street.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Berlandy/Kelsey) it was unanimously

VOTED: To terminate the Cease and Desist and approve the Val Hidri restoration plan dated November 30, 2023 for property located at 504 and Lot 8451 Main Street, and all properties south to the Plainville Town Line, as submitted with the following conditions:

1. Planting shall take place as soon as feasibly in the 2024 growing season;
2. A (3) year monitoring/guarantee shall be provided to ensure the plants survivability and are successful and growing adequately. Monitoring reports are to be provided annually to the town staff by December 1st of each year, for the first three years; and
3. This restoration plan includes four decorative trees drawn onto the restoration plan.

Cease & Desist – 1509 Farmington Avenue

Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr stated the property owner has not responded to staff correspondence. Updated photos were taken and shared with the Commission. Staff will be reaching out to the Town Attorney for guidance on the next steps. The Commission agreed Town Staff should seek direction from the Town Attorney regarding this matter.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Commission tabled this matter until the February 21, 2024 meeting.

**PLANNER'S REPORT**

Dorset Lane Pond

Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr informed the Commission he received a pesticide application from DEEP regarding the application of an herbicide to Dorset Lane Pond. The dam had failed in 2023 resulting in very little if any water impoundment. He will be seeking additional information on the plan and will keep the Commission updated. He also stated the neighborhood is looking into restoring the dam at this time.

Resolution

The Town Council will present the Resolution to the family of Robert Hannon at the February 13, 2024 meeting.

**MINUTES**

Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made and seconded (Fox/Berlandy) it was

VOTED: 5 in favor (Berlandy, Fox, Isner, Kelsey, Simpson), 1 abstention (Statchen) to approve the January 17, 2024 Inland Wetlands meeting minutes.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Statchen/Berlandy) it was

VOTED: 5 in favor (Berlandy, Fox, Isner, Kelsey, Statchen), 1 abstention (Simpson) to approve the January 27, 2024 Inland Wetlands Site Walk notes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

*SJM*