

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2024

Present for the online web conference were Chair Statchen, Commissioners Berlandy, Fox, Isner, Kelsey, Simons (at 7:02 p.m.), Simpson. 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.

Secretary Fox read the legal notice into the record.

PUBLIC HEARING

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. Mr. Petrossi explained he has a sink hole in his front yard and that after further investigation he discovered an existing stone culvert had failed. He would like to replace the stone culvert with a 42-inch HDPE pipe. The pipe will extend further than the existing culvert and he will work closely with Town staff on the timing of the work. Mr. Petrossi provided some background history on when his home and the culvert were constructed. Commissioners asked if the additional length could be shortened at least on the outlet end of the pipe. They understood additional length at the inlet end would be necessary for the flared ends and required grading. Mr. Petrossi responded he hoped to be able to reduce the length at the outlet end of the pipe. Newly appointed Commissioner Simons stated for the record he had listened to the last couple of meetings in preparation for this meeting and supported reducing the pipe length.

There was no public comment in favor or in opposition to the application.

The public hearing was closed at 7:23 p.m.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Isner/Simpson) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve 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 with the condition the pipe length be reduced to 100 feet if feasible at the outlet side and that the applicant work closely with staff regarding timing and installation of appropriate sedimentation and erosion control measures.

NEW BUSINESS

Jennifer Gupta – 70 Woodpond Road

Regulated activity within upland review area to construct a detached garage. This matter is tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Gupta continues to work with her engineer to provide the additional information requested by Staff and the Commission.

Winding Trails, Inc. – 50 Winding Trails

Regulated activity within an upland review area for repair of erosion and restoration of the stream embankment at 50 Winding Trails. Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr provided photos of the stream and the temporary work done to armor the embankment in preparation of the expected heavy rainfall. Brian Cunningham reviewed the scope of the project to repair erosion and to stabilize the western stream bank of Popular Swamp Brook along the east side of the Winding Trails main access driveway. The issue has been compounded by heavy plant growth along the easterly embankment trapping floating debris thereby restricting the flow of the stream, causing elevated stream levels, and prompting local failures of the western stream embankment supporting the road. There are two spots in particular where the top of the embankment is within 26in of the road, which are noted on the plan. One is about 70ft in length and the other is about 30ft. Mr. Brown proposed to trim approximately 1,000lf of the eastern bank of vegetation and remove the debris that is restricting water flow; install 100 ft of riprap stone along the western stream bank to help prevent further erosion; place silt socks and install seed plantings along the bank; and topsoil and seed. There were no new questions or concerns from the Commission.

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

VOTED: To make the determination the Winding Trails, Inc. application for regulated activity within an upland review area for repair of erosion and restoration of the stream embankment of 50 Winding Trails is a non-significant regulated activity and does not require a public hearing.

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

VOTED: To approve the Winding Trails, Inc. application for regulated activity within an upland review area for repair of erosion and restoration of the stream embankment of 50 Winding Trails with the condition the applicant work closely with staff throughout the duration of the project.

Town of Farmington – Lot 8063 (148) Brickyard Road

Regulated activity within wetlands to clean existing drainage swale. Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr stated the Public Works Department would like to restore an existing outlet and drainage swale and provided photos of the swale full of debris and vegetation with an outlet pipe under water. The swale captures stormwater runoff from Brickyard Road and is directed to the rear of the property to a swale which flows southerly along the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, along the toe of the slope south to the pond at Lakeview Apartments. Restoration will entail excavation to remove the silt, regrading of approximately 50 linear feet of swale to ensure positive drainage and installation of rip rap as needed. Excavation will include the use of a rubber tire machine to clean out vegetation. After a brief discussion the Commission felt although this is a regulated activity the proposed work is overdue maintenance of an existing drainage swale.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Simons/Simpson) it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Town of Farmington application for regulated activity within wetlands to clean existing drainage swale at Lot 8063 (148) Brickyard Road.

Cease & Desist – 1509 Farmington Avenue

Update regarding conduct of regulated activity without a permit for property located at 1509 Farmington Avenue. Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr has talked with the Town Attorney and he has suggested sending one more letter to update fines to date. The process after that was reviewed with the Commissioners.

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

VOTED: To direct staff to continue pursuit of enforcement action regarding the assessment of fines and collection of those fines associated with the conduct of regulated activity without a permit for property located at 1509 Farmington Avenue.

PLANNER'S REPORT

Talcott Notch – Emergency Storm Drainage Repair

Photos of a washed-out embankment around the outlet and close to the edge of road between 145 and 167 Talcott Notch Road were reviewed with the Commission. Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr provided details on emergency temporary work done to save the edge of roadway until formal repair can be made. Commissioners asked general questions for clarification on stormwater flow in the area.

Town of Farmington Highway

Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr discussed the potential of a general permit to perform general maintenance work Townwide with the Commission. After some discussion the Commissioners suggested staff work on what the limit and scope of work allowed would be for a general maintenance permit for the Commission to consider.

MINUTES

Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made and seconded (Simpson/Isner) it was

VOTED: 5 in favor (Fox, Isner, Kelsey, Simpson, Statchen), 2 abstentions (Berlandy, Simons) to approve the February 21, 2024 Inland Wetlands meeting minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

SJM