

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2024

Present for the online web conference were Chair Statchen, Commissioners Berlandy, Fox, Simons, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Neeraj and Jennifer Gupta – 70 Woodpond Road

Regulated activity within upland review area to construct a detached garage. Mr. Gupta presented the survey prepared to show the location of the driveway to the proposed detached garage. The bituminous driveway shows a proposed curb adjacent to the western property line. The survey shows the location of the detached garage with a proposed retaining wall, proposed slotted storm drain, proposed perforated HDPE to the proposed 5'x10' rock lined dry well. Commissioners asked general clarifying questions about the drainage and driveway. The Commission then commented that it appeared a portion of the garage will be located in the flood way. Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr used the GIS mapping link to show the location of the flood way and flood plain. Although he has not had the opportunity since the survey was submitted late in the day March 19, 2024 to take a closer look at the portion of the garage that appears to be in the flood plain, he will do so as part of his review prior to their submission to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission. It may be determined they will need to provide compensation or move the garage further south. The Commission stated the erosion control was not noted on the survey.

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

VOTED: To approve the Neeraj and Jennifer Gupta application for regulated activity within upland review area to construct a detached garage located at 70 Woodpond Road as presented and on file in the Planning Office with the condition the applicant work with Town staff to finalize the location of the garage, erosion control measures and the make sure the dry well is sized appropriately.

Town of Farmington – Lot 8063 (148) Brickyard Road

Regulated activity within wetlands to clean existing drainage swale. Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr reviewed he previous presentation to restore an existing outlet and drainage swale. He 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 make the determination the Town of Farmington application for regulated activity within wetlands to clean existing drainage swale at Lot 8063 (148) Brickyard Road was a non-significant regulated activity and does not require a public hearing.

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

VOTED: To approve the Town of Farmington application for regulated activity within wetlands to clean existing drainage swale at Lot 8063 (148) Brickyard Road as presented and on file in the Planning Office.

Town of Farmington –14 Westwoods Drive

Regulated activity within upland review area to pave and expand existing parking lot as part of the construction of the new recreational facilities on site. Dylan Reilly, Civil Engineer, presented the parking lot expansion focusing on the portion located in the upland review area. The parking lot expansion is part of an overall project to construct pickle ball courts, splash pad and building for restrooms/maintenance equipment. Stone trenches will be added along the north and west of the parking area. Mr. Reilly stated the swale used by the existing outlet will be redefined. Commissioners asked for clarification regarding the upland review limit and the overall scope of the project.

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

VOTED: To accept the Town of Farmington application for regulated activity within upland review area to pave and expand existing parking lot as part of the construction of the new recreational facilities on site located at 14 Westwoods Drive.

It was the consensus of the Commissioners that a site walk would not be needed.

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

VOTED: To make the determination the Town of Farmington application for regulated activity within upland review area to pave and expand existing parking lot as part of the construction of the new recreational facilities on site located at 14 Westwoods Drive was a regulated non-significant activity and does not require a public hearing.

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 will be sending one more letter to update fines to date. The process after that was reviewed with the Commissioners.

PLANNER'S REPORT

Town of Farmington Highway

Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr provided a draft list in response to the Commission's request for limit and scope of work that would be allowed under a general maintenance permit. After some discussion Commissioners felt staff could move forward with an application for the Commission to consider.

Vernal Pool Seminars

Two Vernal Pool Seminars are being offered on Saturday, March 30, 2024. Pigeon Hill Preserve in Bristol from 9-10:30 am and at Session Woods in Burlington from 1-2:30 pm.

Winchell-Smith Dam Removal

Senior Assistant Town Planner Cyr provided information on the removal of the Winchell-Smith Dam. He briefly described the project sharing the Princeton Hydro engineering plans. This project is in the DEEP permitting process and will not be required to obtain local permitting.

MINUTES

Meeting Minutes

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

VOTED: To approve the March 6, 2024 Inland Wetlands meeting minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21p.m.

SJM