

**Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency
Regular Meeting
Woodstock Town Hall – Meeting Room 1
Monday, July 12, 2021 – 7:00pm**

Minutes

I. Call to Order: Chairman Mark Parker called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Mark Parker, William Rewinski, Marla Butts, and Stuart Peaslee (Alternate)

Members Absent: N/A

Quorum: Yes.

Others Present: Tina Lajoie, Ryan Sansoucy, Bruce Woodis, Ron Petro, Daniel Blanchette, John Brisson and Jo A. Hannafin.

III. Appointment of Alternates (if necessary): Stuart Peaslee was seated.

IV. Action on minutes of previous meeting

A. June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting: Ms. Butts pointed out under Agenda Item 5a. in the third paragraph under condition 1 it should state no **roadway** millings, not driveway millings. Under same section under condition 2 the word slope was misspelled.

William Rewinski, seconded by Stuart Peaslee, made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 7, 2021 Regular Inland-Wetlands & Watercourses Agency as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

V. Pending Applications:

a. 05-21-02 – John Brisson and Jo A. Hannifan – 220 West Quasset

Road – install new dock: Applicant John Brisson stated that the dock he wished to install will be a low dock for row boats, not motorboats. The dock will be installed by a professional company that has been installing these types of docks throughout the country. He explained to the commission members that the installer

stated that the four structural dock poles will be sufficient to anchor the dock and will not move due to motorboat activity on the lake.

Mr. Rewinski asked what kind of lake bottom would be under the dock. Mr. Brisson stated that the lake bottom at the dock location is mostly sand and rock, with some leaf litter. When the Quasset Lake District lowered the lake in the fall Mr. Brisson plans to clean the leaves out of the water.

Wetlands Agent Tina Lajoie stated that she had received communication from Quasset Lake District President Dr. Andre Bessette and that the proposed dock had been approved by the district board.

Marla Butts, seconded by William Rewinski, made a motion to **Approve** application 05-21-02 – John Brisson and Jo A. Hannifan – 220 West Quasset Road – install a new deck as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

b. 04-21-05M – Angela Billings – 0 Dividend Road – new single dwelling and accessory structure – Modification of approval required by PZC to widen the driveway: Ms. Lajoie stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission required that the driveway that had previously been approved by the Inland-Wetlands Watercourses Agency be widened and the Commission wanted IWWA to approve the new driveway plan. Mr. Daniel Blanchette, of J&D Civil Engineers, the representative for the applicant, stated that the Planning & Zoning is requiring a two-foot-wide apron on either side of the driveway. The footprint of the driveway will not be changing.

Marla Butts, seconded by William Rewinski moved to **approve** application 04-21-05M – Angela Billings – 0 Dividend Road – new single-family dwelling and accessory structure – Modification of approval required by PZC to widen driveway. **Motion passed unanimously.**

It was the consensus of the commission not to charge an application fee to the applicant since this is a modification of a permit.

V. New Applications:

a. 06-21-05 – Ryan Sansoucy – 178 Dugg Hill Road – adding beach sand: Wetlands Agent Tina Lajoie explained to the commission that Ryan Sansoucy is the representative of the applicant, not the applicant. The correct applicant is Clarence Johnson & Regina Pragana, of 72 Indian Spring Road, which

is located on Witches Woods Lake. Mr. Sansoucy has a letter from the property owners to speak on their behalf.

Ryan Sansoucy explained to the Commission that the property in question had been neglected by the former owner and that the new owners wish to clean up the property. He stated that he has removed some trees near the road. To do so he needed to create a dirt landing to create a level landing to bring in the crane that was needed to remove the trees. The remaining work that Mr. Sansoucy proposes to do at the property is to fix the poor drainage that is currently failing at the property. He plans to remove 10 tons of bad soil, weeds, and grass. He will repair and add dry wells and replace stone. When this is completed, he plans to bring in 80 tons of soil and regrade the property, after which it will be hydro seeded. He will use rip rap and silt fences to stop sedimentation. He also plans to add 6 tons of washed beach sand at the shoreline and remove the top of rocks in the shoreline with jackhammers.

The Commission expressed concerns on how the regrading would affect the septic system and the leach fields currently on the property. They also would like to have more detailed information regarding the property and more detailed plans of work that is proposed to be done.

Marla Butts, seconded by Stuart Peaslee, made a motion to **accept** application 06-21-05- Ryan Sansoucy – 72 Indian Spring Road – with request to submit additional information including (1) locus map showing the property in relation to the lake and area roads, and (2) a scaled drawing using the map found in the building/zoning permit files including the existing disturbed area, area of proposed placement of topsoil, proposed and existing placement of rip rap, location of dry wells, the location and type of erosion and sediment control both existing and proposed, and (3) the 2-foot lidar topography of the property as can be found on UConn's website (i.e. cteco.uconn.edu/lidar/index.htm). **Motion passed unanimously.**

b. UP 06-21-04 – Muddy Brook Fire Department – 112 Woodstock Road – use of permitted as of right: There was no representative from Muddy Brook Fire Department to answer commission questions with regards to this application.

Ms. Lajoie stated that this permit is requesting the Commission to approve the installation of a dry hydrant at the existing fire pond located at 112 Woodstock Road. Letters of consent have been received from the property owners to install

and maintain the dry hydrant. The dry hydrant will not alter any water courses in the pond.

Marfa Butts, seconded by Bill Rewinski, made a motion to **approve** application UP 06-21-04 – Muddy Brook Fire Department as a use permitted as of right.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. 07-21-06 – Carl & Patricia Noren, 1015 Route 198 – 2 Lot

Subdivision: Bruce Woodis, acting as the representative of the applicant was present to answer Commission members questions.

Mr. Woodis stated that the property in question is located on Route 198, 200 feet south of the intersection of Route 197. Mr. Woodis stated that the Planning & Zoning requested that this application be brought before the IWWA for approval.

Mr. Woodis explained that there is currently a house on one of the lots with an existing septic system. The Norens plan to build a house on the second lot on top of a knoll for themselves. There will be silt fences around the knoll during the building of the house and that the septic system will not be in wetlands. The property is all pastureland and the only wetlands on the property are in the woods, where no work will occur.

Marla Butts, seconded by Bill Rewinski, made a motion to **approve** the application 07-21-06 – Carl and Patricia Noren, 1015 Route 198 – 2 lot subdivision identified as an approved subdivision and work ins said lot be approved as a Wetlands Agent sign off. **Motion approved unanimously.**

VII. Administrative Business:

a. Wetlands Activity Report: Ms. Lajoie stated that she would submit her Wetlands Report to the Commission members via email.

Ms. Lajoie stated that Ashley Stephens has been hired as a fulltime Land Use Administrator and her first day will be on July 19th. Ms. Stevens is a certified Wetlands Agent.

i. Peckham Brook Culvert Stormwater report: Ms. Lajoie and Ron Petro, owner of property on Paine Road, explained to the Commission that the new culvert pipes placed by the Town to resolve drainage issues on Paine Road, heading for Paine District Road are not adequate. Mr. Petro stated that his driveway continues to wash away, and stone on his driveway is being washed into

his pasture, preventing him from mowing the lawn and hay the field. The washout due to the last two weeks of rain has created problems that Mr. Petro cannot fix on his own. Mr. Petro shared video of the drainage issues from today's heavy rain. Mr. Petro stated that it is difficult for him to keep up with cleaning the vegetation that is growing near the culverts and the different sediment controls.

The Commission members agreed that there were more drainage issues on Paine Road other than water coming down the south side of the road, towards Paine District Road. The Commission feels that an engineered study of the drainage issues needs to be conducted on the road and further solutions need to be investigated.

Ms. Butts reminded the Commission members that the work that was previously done was done without input from the Commission. Ms. Butts offered to write a letter for Chairman Parker to sign to be sent to the First Selectmen asking for resolution to this problem. Ms. Lajoie will speak to Mr. Swan tomorrow, and try to arrange a meeting with Mr. Petro, Mr. Swan and Highway Foreman John Navarro.

The Commission stated that Mr. Petro would be able to clean the wetlands on his property as a use of right and enjoyment of his property.

VIII. Citizen's Comments: Daniel Blanchette of J&D Engineering, spoke on behalf of Chris Marks who is proposing to work on the pond and moat around the castle. Mr. Blanchette stated that he was coming before the Commission now to explain his ideas on how to accomplish this and to receive input from the Commission before putting a formal application before the Committee.

Mr. Blanchette explained that an Ecologist studied the pond in 2017. The Ecologist suggested that the pond be drained, the muck allowed to dry for a few days, then the organic material will be removed from the pond using backhoes and workers on Mr. Marks' staff. The muck would be stockpiled around the property, with silt fences surrounding the piles. The piles would eventually be used around the property. Mr. Blanchette stated that the only wetlands area around the pond and the moat is a swampy area that drains into the pond. The rest of the land around the property is dry.

Mr. Blanchette explained that the dam on the pond is privately owned, and a permit is not needed from the Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. Marks controls the lowering the lake and proposes to lower the pond about four feet.

The Commission had some concerns about the amount of work that is being proposed.

Mr. Parker and Ms. Butts suggested using a hydraulic dredging system. Mr. Blanchette stated that that had been investigated but the cost was prohibitive.

Mr. Rewinski and Mr. Peaslee suggested doing an archeology study of the property. Mr. Blanchette stated that the site does not have sandy soils where Native Americans typically settled and did not fall under the requirements of an archeological study. Mr. Peaslee and Mr. Rewinski thought having an archeological study of the area when it was previously settled by farmers be conducted. Mr. Blanchette will take this suggestion to Mr. Marks, but he felt that the cost would be too prohibitive.

Ms. Butts suggested that a study be done on what invasive vegetation is currently on site and what type of vegetation could thrive once the site has been dredged and how to prevent invasives species from entering the site and flourishing on other parts of the property.

Mr. Blanchette thanked the Commission for the input.

Ms. Lajoie stated that she will be remaining in her position of Zoning Enforcement Officer until Ms. Stephens has obtained her CAZEO certification. Ms. Stevens will be taking over as Wetlands Agent on July 19th.

The Commission thanked Ms. Lajoie for her work on behalf of the Commission and further stated that they enjoyed working with her and wish her well in the future.

IX. Adjournment: Bill Rewinski, seconded by Ms. Butts, made a motion to adjourn at 9:58pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Secretary

