

## INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 3, 2020 - 7:00 P.M.

Woodstock Town Hall – Lower Level, Room B

### MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Mark Parker called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- II. **Roll Call:**  
**Members Present:** Mark Parker, Stuart Peaslee, William Rewinski, Victor Peabody, Marla Butts  
**Members Absent:** None  
**Quorum:** Yes  
**Others Present:** Tina Lajoie, Members of the Public

- III. **Appointment of Alternates (if necessary):** None.

Chairman Parker informed everyone in attendance that the meeting was being recorded.

- IV. **Action on minutes of previous meeting of January 6, 2020:**  
**Motion** was made by Stuart Peaslee, and **Seconded** by William Rewinski, to **approve** the minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting with the following revision: pg. 3, VIII (d), 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet: change “curated” to “created.” Marla Butts **abstained**. **Motion carried.**

- V. **Old Business:**

a) **Witches Woods – Update on 199 Crooked Trail Ext.**

It was noted for the record that the street number is 119, not 199 as referenced above. Ms. Lajoie acknowledged members of the Witches Woods Lake Association and Sharon Kovaleski, property owner of 119 Crooked Trail Ext., where there is a complaint concerning excessive use of copper sulfate on her property. Ms. Kovaleski reported that she returned the remaining copper sulfate product to the company she purchased it from. Marla Butts asked if Ms. Kovaleski would be applying copper sulfate to areas on her property in the future, and Ms. Kovaleski indicated that she would not be. After discussing techniques used on the tree stumps, Ms. Butts suggested that Ms. Kovaleski research a product that applies organisms into stumps to biodegrade roots. Noted for the record, Ms. Kovaleski submitted photos to the IWWA and will send Ms. Lajoie additional photos of the roots being removed.

Ms. Kovaleski’s neighbor, Tom Gotta submitted his photos of alleged damaged trees at a previous meeting, and they were reviewed again at this meeting. Mr. Gotta requested the IWWA consider sending a letter to Ray Frigon at the DEEP encouraging DEEP to actively pursue a solubility study to determine the condition of the soil on Ms. Kovaleski’s property. After further discussion, the IWWA requested Mr. Gotta provide them with the test results the DEEP conducted on his property in the fall of 2019, the timeline of his communications with the DEEP and what he feels is their failure to act. Additionally, any site map indicating the location of damaged trees, property lines and distance from the lake would assist IWWA in obtaining a clearer picture of this complaint and determining next steps.

Marla Butts advised Mr. Gotta that if he is concerned about the copper sulfate going into his well water, he should request an independent well test to have for future reference.

Ms. Butts reinforced that the IWWA has no jurisdiction on regulating the application of copper sulfate unless it impacts wetlands and watercourses, which is their jurisdiction. If Ms. Kovalski denies the DEEP from obtaining samples on her property, the DEEP can request a search warrant to gain access to her property. Witches Woods Association member and resident Maggie Houlihan suggested the IWWA conduct a drive by to assess the damage to the property.

IWWA members recommended that Mr. Gotta request the field report and field notes from the DEEP investigation, and the soil sample test results from the individual who conducted the inspection. They further recommended that Mr. Gotta consider contacting his legislator if he is feels he is not getting a response from the DEEP.

**VIII: Administrative Business:<sup>1</sup>**

- a) Annual Election of Officers:** Mark Parker, Chairman; William Rewinski, Vice Chair; Marla Butts, Secretary

**Motion** was made by Victor Peabody, and **Seconded** by Stuart Peaslee, to approve the current slate of officers as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b) Review of Bylaws:** The Bylaws are reviewed in February on an annual basis and can be reviewed/revised throughout the year as necessary. Marla Butts suggested a change on page 3, item 8a. "Regular meeting should be held on the third Monday of each month..."; replace "third Monday" with "first Monday."

Mr. Peaslee recommended the IWWA consider a field report be referenced somewhere in the Bylaws. It was agreed to include "Keeping contemporaneous notes of field inspections" be added under Staff and Their Duties as 6a.—v.

These recommendations will be added to next month's agenda for consideration and approval.

- c) Wetlands Agent Activity Report:** Ms. Lajoie shared that she will be away from February 18 through March 3. Thus, she will miss the next IWWA meeting. She will designate someone to assist in her absence with accepting applications as they are received. She referenced one sign off on her activity report, which was 54 Stonehill Rd.; proposed inground pool in the Upland Review area.

**d) Bills**

- With members' agreement, Chairman Parker approved an invoice for \$44.10 for a legal notice ad in the Stonebridge Press regarding the Erskine property - #11-19-21.
- Mr. Rewinski explained his email to Ms. Lajoie a few months ago in which he referenced certain Bylaws and regulations that allow Ms. Lajoie authority to approve Upland Review area applications.

- e) Communications:** None.

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<sup>1</sup> Subheadings under Administrative Business may include, as needed, Wetlands Agent Reports, Communications, Bills, Complaints, Investigations, Enforcement, Requests for Permit Extensions / Transfers, Election of Officers, Budget Requests and Other.

- f) **Budget Finalization:** A memorandum regarding the IWWA Budget Request FY 2020-21 to First Selectman Jay Swan and Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick was shared with IWWA members. The recommended budget for FY 2020-21 totals \$12,950. Adjustments noted from the previous year's budgeted included adding contractual services (wetland agent's salary) and removing support for ECCD.

IX: **Citizens' Comments:** None.

X: **Adjournment: Motion** was made by Marla Butts, and **Seconded** by Victor Peabody, to adjourn. **The motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Brown, Recording Secretary. **DISCLAIMER:** These minutes have not yet been approved by the IWWA. Please refer to next month's minutes for approval/amendments.