

## INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY

### REGULAR MEETING

Monday, December 7, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.

In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC, members of the IWWA participated in the meeting via ZOOM online.

#### MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Mark Parker called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Chairman Parker shared the protocol on conducting meetings via Zoom online.

- II. **Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Mark Parker, Stuart Peaslee, William Rewinski, Marla Butts,

**Members Absent:** Victory Peabody

**Quorum:** Yes

**Others Present:** Tina Lajoie, Ronald Petro, Seth Spalding, Edward Fleming, Ulric Deojay

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

- IV. **Action on minutes of previous meeting of November 16, 2020:**

**Motion** was made by William Rewinski, and **Seconded** by Marla Butts, to **Approve** the minutes of the November 16, 2020 IWWA meeting as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- V. **New Business:**

- a. UP-11-20-37 – Ronald Petro – 155 Paine Road – Restoration of pond – Use permitted as of right

Mr. Petro was in attendance and welcomed questions from the Agency. He stated the culvert the Town installed was completed between 2016-2017. Mr. Petro has not consulted with an engineer to discuss the project he is proposing. He shared issues with the three culverts and explained three impervious dams would be put in on the west side to catch any sediment and silt. On the opposite side of the driveway, he is proposing the installation of a 20-30-foot plunge pool.

Ms. Butts provided topography photos from 2016 she found online. These were shared on the screen with those in attendance. Ms. Butts stated there is probably wetlands associated in the gore area. She further noted more information is needed to determine if this falls under an agricultural use. Mr. Petro then shared videos with those in attendance where the proposed work would occur and identified the issues during the footage.

William Rewinski had no objection with clearing out the pond but had concern with the water flowing from Paine Road and believes an engineer should be consulted.

The Agency determined further research was needed regarding the installation of the second culvert by the Town.

Mr. Peaslee felt this should be considered as a use permitted as of right and was in favor of a site visit. Ms. Butts agreed with a site visit; however, she could not make a decision on this application until a site plan was received indicating the location and construction of the three impervious

dikes. Additionally, she is not convinced that piping of a watercourse is covered as an agricultural exemption. Last, she would like to learn more about the work proposed to the pond and suggested the applicant seek alternative solutions, perhaps while consulting with an engineer, for the three impervious dikes.

Mr. Parker agreed that more information would be needed before rendering a decision. Mr. Rewinski suggested the applicant contact Jean Pillo of the Eastern CT Conservation District as she may have insight to share.

Ms. Lajoie will research the permits on this property specific to the pond and driveway, provide the applicant with Ms. Pillo's contact information, and gather more information from the Highway Department on the installation of the second culvert. Members will coordinate a time with Tina Lajoie to visit the site and prepare a field report.

**Motion** was made by Marla Butts, and **Seconded** by William Rewinski, to **Table** UP-11-20-37 – Ronald Petro – 155 Paine Road – Restoration of pond – Use permitted as of right. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- b. UP – Edward Fleming III – 13 Lebanon Hill Road – Removal of dead trees and thinning of understory

Mr. Fleming answered questions from Agency members. He stated the stumps would remain. It was recommended the applicant provide further delineation of the proposed work. Mr. Spalding shared additional details on the proposed work.

Marla Butts stated if there is no clearcutting in an upland review area, this application does not require approval from IWWA.

**Motion** was made by Marla Butts, and **Seconded** by Stuart Peaslee, to **Approve** UP – Edward Fleming III – 13 Lebanon Hill Road – Removal of dead trees and thinning of understory as a non-regulated use. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## **VI. Old Business:**

- a. 10-20-32 – George Harakaly, 10 Loyola Road Ext. – Replace existing wall with concrete wall on same footprint

Mr. Deojay was in attendance representing the applicant. Members were satisfied with what was presented as of result of the recommendations from the last meeting.

**Motion** was made by Marla Butts, and **Seconded** by William Rewinski, to **Approve** 10-20-32 – George Harakaly, 10 Loyola Road Ext. – Replace existing wall with concrete wall on same footprint with the requirement to have a six-inch footing as submitted. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- b. 11-20-36 – Town of Woodstock, Peake Brook Road – Bridge replacement

Ms. Lajoie stated this agenda item would need to be tabled to the next meeting because further discussions with the state are pending and changes may be required to the plans.

**Motion** was made by Marla Butts, and **Seconded** by William Rewinski, to **Table 11-20-36 – Town of Woodstock, Peake Brook Road – Bridge replacement to next month’s meeting pending additional information by engineer. The motion passed unanimously.**

- c. 09-20-23 – Noreene Stehlik – 294 Route 198 – Phragmite removal in pond
- d. 09-20-24 – William Stehlik – 1030 Route 198 – Phragmite removal in pond

Tina Lajoie stated that Bruce Woodis, who represents the applicants for applications 09-20-23 and 09-20-24, has requested both applications be tabled to the next meeting, as more research and planning is required.

**Motion** was made by Marla Butts, and **Seconded** by William Rewinski, to **Table 09-20-23 – Noreene Stehlik – 294 Route 198 – Phragmite removal in pond and 09-20-24 – William Stehlik – 1030 Route 198 – Phragmite removal in pond to the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**VII. Wetlands Agent Activity Report:** Tina Lajoie shared applications she is working on that require agent signoff. She visited 725 Route 198 and met with the property owner due to a complaint regarding removal of vegetation/trees, which slopes down to what appeared to be standing water and wetlands. The owner is in the process of submitting an application to the IWWA, which appears to be an agent signoff. She confirmed for members that upon her site visit a silt fence was evident at the bottom of the hill, and it was clear he was creating a lawn. Ms. Butts recommended temporary mulch, which is 100% cover with hay, through the winter. A track vehicle should be run up and down the slope for better erosion control.

- a. Other Administrative Business<sup>1</sup>: None
- b. Communications: None
- c. Bills: None

**VIII. Citizens’ Comments/Other Topics:** There were no citizens’ comments. Marla Butts shared concern about Paine Road and requested this be investigated further with the Town Highway Department. Mr. Peaslee noted his term limit expires at the end of this month and he would not be renewing due to other responsibilities requiring his time. He was in favor of helping as an alternate member should the need arise. Ms. Lajoie will inform the Selectman’s Office of Mr. Peaslee’s resignation and request assistance from them with IWWA candidate referrals.

**IX. Adjournment: Motion** was made by William Rewinski, and **Seconded** by Marla Butts, to **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://youtu.be/Pqb2rQnKfn8>

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.

---

<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.