East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission
Land Use Office

Regular Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2020

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission was called to order by Mr. Dill at 7:32 PM at the Municipal Office Building.

2. Attendance

Members Present: Randolph Dill (chairman), Mary Augustiny, Jennifer Burton-Reeve
Members Absent: Bryan Goff, Daniel Jahne
Also Present: James Ventres (Land Use Administrator), Thom Delventhal (Conservation Commission representative), Rob Smith (First Selectman) - arrived 7:49

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Burton-Reeve to accept the minutes from the January 21, 2020 meeting as presented. Second by Ms. Augustiny and unanimously approved.

4. Bills

None.

5. Field Inspection Report

None held this month.

6. Declaratory Ruling

Reinforcement of road edge to prevent further wave action damage on the East Haddam Colchester Turnpike causeway.

Mr. Ventres brought to Mr. Dill's attention the area of the East Haddam Colchester Road Turnpike causeway that is being eroded. He provided a map that showed where the wave action is hitting the underside of the causeway. To stop the wave action from slamming the sides, Mr. Ventres is recommending that stones be put into place. While the GIS photo is from 2016, it is clear that there is a need for action to be taken. Mr. Dill reviewed the ruling and noted that there is nothing in the regulations that allows for repair without a permit. Mr. Dill noted that the Commission could do a summary ruling, which requires the Town to go through the application process. Mr. Dill would like to have something on the public record that shows that this is a matter of public safety. Ms. Augustiny asked what kind of stone will be used. Mr. Ventres noted it would be angular in nature to prevent it from washing away. Mr. Dill requested that the application, narrative, and justification be provided by Public Works. Mr. Dill asked for clarity on regulated activities related to the State statute reference. Mr. Ventres noted that that statute 22A-40 does not apply to this issue.

Motion by Ms. Augustiny to continue the discussion of the declaratory ruling to the next regular meeting. Second by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

7. Wetlands Permit Review

a. New - #W20-01- Town of East Haddam, Neptune Road, replace damaged bridge.

Mr. Ventres provided the drawing of the section on Neptune Road that was blown out by the September 2019 storm. There will be a field walk scheduled prior to the next regular meeting. Mr. Dill asked for clarity on regulated activities related to the State statutes reference. Mr. Ventres noted that that statute does not apply to this issue of repairing road.

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue application #W20-01 to the next regular meeting. Second by Ms. Augustiny and unanimously approved.

8. IWWC Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ventres provided official notification to the property owners that the issue at Lakeside Dan's would be addressed by the Town since the owners have not addressed and payment will be received via a lien on the property. The owners have now removed the debris around the clogged pipes and the pond is draining. Appropriate fill has been added to the road to replace what has been eroded away. The owner wants to put a real catch basin in and add screening to both that catch basin and in the pond. After all work has been completed, Mr. Ventres will pull an as-built from two telephone poles so that if there is future work needed, it will be clear as to where the basin is. Mr. Ventres informed the owners that the work must be completed to allow passage for the property owners. The flooding problem was only a long-standing problem once or twice a year. The owners, by filling in the pipe, made the flooding an everyday problem. Right now, the pond has drained down quite a bit and the owners are now able to get to their properties. Mr. Ventres will continue to monitor.

Mr. Ventres provided an update on the 6 Cove Road issue related to the dock issue. He does remember that there was a dock, but Mr. Ventres noted that since all people who would remember are long gone, he informed the owner to research it for photos at the State Library and submit an application to the State DEEP to address the complaint.

Mr. Ventres provided copies of the Plan of Conservation and Development as well as the Connecticut Federation of Planning and Zoning Agencies quarterly newsletter.

9. Conservation Commission Input

Mr. Delventhal joined as the Conservation Commission liaison. He noted that there are several Eagle Scout projects underway. The old dump site has a new name – Salmon River Overlook. The CC is working on its annual budget.
Ms. Augustiny noted that there are monies available for a turtle and snake study. She asked Mr. Ventres to review the email on these monies and see if there are any sites in East Haddam that would be good candidates. It would either be the Conservation Commission and/or the East Haddam Land

Trust who would steward any type of activity. Mr. Smith will forward on the email to Mr. Ventres to review.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Augustiny to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Second by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Handouts at the Meeting:

- Map of East Haddam Colchester Road Turnpike Causeway proposed work area.
- Neptune Avenue roadway plan to replace washed out bridge by WMC Engineers.
- 2020 Plan of Conservation & Development.