East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission
Land Use Office

Regular Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2022

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission was called to order by Mr. Dill at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Office Complex.

2. Attendance

Members Present: Randolph Dill, Mary Augustiny, Daniel Jahne, Jennifer Burton-Reeve
Members Absent: Bryan Goff
Also Present: James Ventres (Land Use Administrator), Roger Nemergut, Bernie Gillis (Conservation Commission), Mr. Thomas Delventhal – Conservation Commission representative, and Mr. Cameron Beard - EHLT representative's

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes to be reviewed at the next meeting to allow the commissioners time to read them.

4. Bills

Bill from Nathan L. Jacobsen for East Haddam Colchester Turnpike and Beebe Road work to look at the erosion for $458.96. Mr. Dill noted that the work touches 3 Town offices: Public Works, IWWC and P&Z.

A motion was made by Ms. Burton-Reeve to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahne and unanimously approved.

5. Field Inspection Report

Two field walks held in May:

The first was on May 04, 2022, with 4 properties visited – Smith Road, Silas Holmes Road, Robbie Road, and Robbie Road. The second was on May 11, 2022, with 2 properties visited – Lake Shore Drive and West Road. In attendance for both field walks were Mr. Dill, Ms. Augustiny, Ms. Burton-Reeve, and Mr. Ventres.

6. Wetlands Permit Review

a. #W22-06 – 155 Lakeshore Drive, Robert & Linda Popolzio (applicants & Property owners). Proposed construction to rebuild the existing sea wall and patio. Map 080, Lot 214. Lake Hayward.

The property owner had not yet arrived, so the Commission moved the agenda item to the end.

b. #W22-07 – Dolbia Hill Road West, Town of East Haddam (applicant & property owner). Proposed replacement of culvert. Map 024, Lot 001.

Mr. Ventres noted that he has not received a diagram yet from Brian Curtis, P.E Mr. Dill noted that the site was visited with Brian and looked at the idea of diverting the stream back into its original bed with some water going where it is going now. Brian thought it was doable but put it back into a larger culvert, which would solve the problem of water going over the road. The IWWC is waiting on the diagram so no decision can be made at this time.

c. #W22-08 – Robbie Road, Town of East Haddam (applicant), Ed Sikorski & Maria Lagana (owners). Stream stabilization. Map 056, Lot 076.

Roger Nemergut provided an overview of the project, showing revised maps. At Robbie Road, the stream goes under the road by a 48" culvert with a headwall on the south end of Robbie Road. Upstream of the headwall there is a stream bed, and because of a storm several years ago, is now an oxbow shape. The problem that has arisen from that is on the east side of the oxbow, there is a steep bank, as it is being eroded away. At the top of the bank is the driveway that services the house, 10 Robbie Road, owned by Mr. Sikorski and Maria Lagana. At some point, that driveway is going to be eroded away. The idea is to put the stream back in a more original alignment and stabilize it, so it does not happen again.
One change from the preliminary drawings is to have more of a curve in the new alignment. Mr. Nemergut is also recommending that the new channel be rip-rapped on the bottom and the sides, given the velocity of the water that runs through there after heavy rains. Where this stream channel joins the culvert headwall, it is about 8 feet wide, and the new alignment will mirror that. That will allow for the volume of a 100-year storm to flow with no impediment. The outside of the bank will also be lined with riprap.
The old stream bed will be filled in. The work must be done in two stages. Public Works will go in initially and put in their silt fence and maintain the existing stream bed while they worked on the new one. The work would be completed in July or August, and while it may be dried up, there could be a storm so that has to be planned for. There is 230 acres of watershed above this point that must be considered when doing the work, to provide a flow channel. Once the new section is established, the silt fence would be moved. Where the new channel joins the old channel, Mr. Nemergut is recommending a stone berm to go across the berm, which is the only way to hold silt back in a flowing brook. It is an erosion control measure and will be removed after the work is completed. Hay bales block the flow and will not work. Mr. Dill asked if there is any opportunity to use baskets with stones called gabions. Mr. Nemergut noted they would be easier to construct but would operate in the same fashion of

the stone berm. Gabions are more labor intensive and uses less stone and are a better engineering solution but are more expensive. Gabions look better and are more stable over time. Mr. Dill asked Mr. Nemergut to look into gabions option and the price.
Mr. Dill asked about the stone wall and if the new design includes the removal of that wall. Mr. Nemergut will make sure the stone wall is placed on the map.
The repairs would be a minimum of a week but may take several weeks but depends on the manpower and the equipment.
Ms. Augustiny asked for the sequencing using the gabions be included in the map.
Mr. Ventres suggested Mr. Nemergut to reach out to Mr. Hedler, at the Public Works Department to make sure he can get gabions as supplies are slim.

Motion by Ms. Augustiny to continue the application. #W22-08 – Robbie Road, Town of East Haddam (applicant), Ed Sikorski & Maria Lagana (owners). Stream stabilization. Map 056, Lot 076. Second by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

d. W#22-09 – 74 Smith Road, Wildwood Inc (applicant & property owner). Emergency turn around. M049, Lot 009, Bashan Lake.

Mr. Ventres has the emergency service turn around map signed from Curtin Construction, LLC. Mr. Curtin noted that while 40 feet by 40 feet is the maximum, the size will depend upon if there are monster boulders or ledge. There will be signage posted for an emergency turn around only in the field by Mr. Curtin. It was noted that curtain drains may be needed if there is bleed through, but as he is not aware of what is needed, any type of additional drains will be included in the As Built after the work is done, along with a description of the work that was done for the file.
The timing for construction will be around September, given that the association is seasonal.

Motion by Ms. Burton-Reeve to approve the application W#22-09 – 74 Smith Road, Wildwood Inc (applicant & property owner). Emergency turn around, with the conditions that photos and an As Built be included upon completion in the file, per plan dated May 10. M049, Lot 009, Bashan Lake. Second by Ms. Augustiny and unanimously approved.

e. W#22-10 – Property located off Robbie Road, Town of East Haddam, East Haddam Conservation Commission & East Haddam Land Trust (EHLT) (applicants & property owners). Wetland crossing for trails system. Map 056, Lots 076 & 185.

Mr. Dill noted the IWWC did walk the property until the larger marsh piece. A couple of the crossings seem very straight forward and there is one crossing that will be a little more complicated just past the sign in the woods that is an extensive wetland. For that crossing, which is 64 feet straight across so they will use 3x8s resting on 6x6s, then its dry for another couple hundreds of feet and then a bridge will be installed.
The shorter crossings on the EHLT side will use pressure treated 3x8s resting on 6x6s with rebar to reinforce them. That allows flow underneath and is minimally disruptive. There are about 4 to 5 crossings in total. This will be a joint project with the EHLT and the Conservation Commission. There is a section that is school property which must be crossed, and Mr. Ventres already went to the Board of Education and received approval for that crossing and a small parking area.

Mr. Cameron Beard from the EHLT provided an overview of the crossings. Mr. Dill asked for clarity on water flow, and Mr. Gillis representing the Conservation Commission noted that the flow is not very much.

Motion by Mr. Jahne to approve the application W#22-10 – Property located off Robbie Road, Town of East Haddam, East Haddam Conservation Commission & East Haddam Land Trust (applicants & property owners). Wetland crossing for trails system, per plans dated May 5, 2022. Map 056, Lots 076 & 185. Second by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

f. W#22-11 – Silas Holmes Road, Ct Sportsmen's Association, Replace existing piping. Map 019, lot 031.

Mr. Ventres noted he talked with the President of the CT Sportsmen's Club, who has been made aware that his brother / member has already installed everything and none of it is installed via the plans. Mr. Ventres is flagging the section of wetlands and noted that is not to be made into field, cut, or have anything else done to it. Mr. Ventres provided the Sportsmen's Club President with the map. The pipes were installed as water was running down the access road and causing road erosion. The problem is that the work has been completed without the application being reviewed first and has been installed not according to plan. The Sportsmen's Club President noted to Mr. Ventres that he would discuss the matter with his brother and address the situation.
Discussion ensued between the commissioners and Mr. Ventres around the map details and what has happened already. Mr. Dill asked Mr. Ventres if he talked with them again to discuss with them the need to keep the emergency spillway maintained to ensure it works appropriately. The pond is a man-made pond, which gets in inflow from the direction of Petticoat Lane.
Mr. Ventres will meet with representatives of the Sportsmen's Club in the field to outline what is needed. Mr. Dill would like to have something in writing from them to outline what the plan is to maintain the area. The crossing has been completed, without the commission viewing it first.

Motion by Ms. Burton-Reeve to continue the application W#22-11 – Silas Holmes Road, Ct Sportsmen's Association, replace existing piping, with the stipulation that the applicant must come before the Commission with plans for the wetlands area. Map 019, lot 031. Second by Mr. Jahne and unanimously approved.

g. W#20-21 – 304 Town Street, Fedus Engineering (applicant), Richard M. Lagace (property owner). Proposed construction of a multi-family dwelling with parking area, septic system, well, underground electric and drainage improvements with infiltration system. Map 018, Lot 043.

Mr. Ventres noted they resubmitted, but he recognized there was issues with the septic system that did not meet the Public Health Code. He has discussed this issue with the applicants engineer, and indicated to the engineer that they must submit to the Commission the septic plan for septic review by the Chatham Health District and the State of CT. The whole plan is driven on if the septic system can be done or not. If the existing plan has to be reworked based

on feedback from Chatham Health District and the State, then that changes the wetlands plan. The engineer has requested that the application be continued to allow time for the septic system review.

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue the application W#20-21 – 304 Town Street, Fedus Engineering (applicant), Richard M. Lagace (property owner). Proposed construction of a multi-family dwelling with parking area, septic system, well, underground electric and drainage improvements with infiltration system. Map 018, Lot 043. Second by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

7. Subdivision Report

a. W#22-01- Subdivision – West Road & Sara Baker Road – 3 Lot Subdivision, Integrity Properties Group, LLC May 044, Lot 015

Mr. Ventres noted the lots are at the top of the hill, with wetlands at the bottom of the hill. Since there are no direct wetlands impacts, this application requires a letter to Planning and Zoning Commission with the note that they need to keep an eye on the hill and erosion to protect Burnham Brook.

Motion by Mr. Dill to send a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission indicating that the subdivision meets all the requirements of the Wetlands Commission and the wetlands regulations with a note that the LUA keep a close eye on the back side slope for proper soil and erosion control for the protection of Burnham Brook, for the application W#22-01 - Subdivision – West Road & Sara Baker Road – 3 Lot Subdivision, Integrity Properties Group, LLC May 044, Lot 015. Second by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

b. #W22-06 – 155 Lakeshore Drive, Robert & Linda Popolzio (applicants & Property owners). Proposed construction to rebuild the existing sea wall and patio. Map 080, Lot 214. Lake Hayward.

Mr. Popolzio and Mr. Ventres have been discussing the planting plan and have gotten a full list of native plants. Mr. Ventres had left a contractor a message and noted the work had to stop until the application was submitted and approved by IWWC. There was a bit of a miscommunication between Mr. Ventres, the contractor, and the owner regarding the work. There is still work (a drain must be installed behind the wall which will drain out on the south end) that must be completed prior to the plantings being done. Mr. Dill asked how the slope will be stabilized.

Mr. Ventres noted that the area will be mulched. Right now, it has hay on it. The owner did not attend the meeting due to travel.

Mr. Dill talked with the commissioners about next steps for this application. Mr. Dill reached out to Attorney Matt Willis to discuss this application and how to oversee the situation. Discussion ensued related to next steps for this application, whether to approve to allow the planting plan to be implemented or to deny and require the applicant to re-submit the plan.

Motion by Ms. Augustiny to approve the application for #W22-06 – 155 Lakeshore Drive, Robert & Linda Popolzio (applicants & property owners). Proposed construction to rebuild

the existing sea wall and patio and adhere to the planting plan submitted 5/17/2022 and with the construction diagram, as well as keeping the Land Use Administration apprised of the continuing restabilization of the area, by submitting progress photos. Detailed dimensions must be included in the plan, on the wall, patio, grassed areas, and planting areas. Second by Mr. Jahne. Mr. Dill went on record as opposing the motion, but the motion carried with 2 approvals, 1 disapproval and 1 abstention by, Jennifer Burton-Reeve

8. IWWC Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ventres noted that on Alger Road he met with the property owner and the contractor. While the owner was looking to install the septic without hiring a company to install it to save some money, he ended up having to hire someone who could run the backhoe to finish the work. Mr. Ventres noted that once the septic system is fixed, which is top priority, then the owner has to revisit the disturbed area next to the vernal pool to complete the planting plan for the area. Mr. Ventres provided a list of native plantings to the owner.

Mr. Dill asked about the East Shore and Lake Shore sub-division. Mr. Ventres noted there is no complete application for that yet, but he has had quite a bit of conversation around this potential sub-division. Discussion ensued related to the wetlands, the drainage needs, and the requirements needed for next steps. Ms. Augustiny would like to see a good map of the whole area when the application is submitted.

Mr. Dill noted Mr. Curtis was called in to make recommendations on how to stabilize the north side of Moodus Reservoir causeway which gets all the erosion, so the guard rails stand up. That is a Town road and a Town project.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Burton-Reeve to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Augustiny and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary