East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission
Land Use Office

Regular Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2023

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), Thom Delventhal, Gary Riggio, Shalene Thody, Brad Thody, Brian Wagner

3. Approval of Minutes

6.d. change *east* to *west* to read, "…and want to add a new trail on the *west* side."

A motion by Mr. Jahne to approve the February 21, 2023, minutes as amended. Seconded by Ms. Augustiny, and unanimously approved. Ms. Burton-Reeve abstained.

4. Bills

No bills.

5. Field Inspection Report

Afield walk was held on March 12, for the following properties: Chapman Preserve, River Road, 91 Mott Lane and Nathan Hale Middle School. Mr. Dill, Ms. Augustiny, Ms. Burton-Reeve, Mr. Delventhal from the Conservation Commission and Mr. Ventres were in attendance.

6. Wetlands Permit Review

a. #W22-07 – Hopyard Road (property location), Town of East Haddam – Redirection of the stream to the original bed.

Mr. Ventres noted there is no update to provide at this time yet.

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue the application #W22-07 – Hopyard Road (property location), Town of East Haddam – Redirection of the stream to the original bed, until Public Works is ready to provide further information. Second by Ms.Augustiny and unanimously approved.

b. #W22-19 – East Shore drive (property location), Town of East Haddam (property owner), proposed culvert replacement.

Mr. Ventres noted there is no update to provide at this time yet.

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue the application #W22-19 – East Shore drive (property location), Town of East Haddam (property owner), proposed culvert replacement, until Public Works is ready to provide further information. Second by Ms. Augustiny and unanimously approved.

c. #W22-20 – Town of East Haddam (applicant & property owner), E.H. Colchester Turnpike Causeway, roadside reinforcement.

Mr. Ventres indicated that Eversource is going to request DEEP approval to drop the reservoir 2.5 feet for the end of Dec/January into February 2024 to allow for them to complete their gas line installation work. Due to this, the Town would like to complete their work at the same time. Mr. CurtisP.E. provided a design to Mr. Ventres, and Public Works needs to put a placeholder in the budget to ensure the work is budgeted for next year. Mr. Ventres provided an overview of the drawing and the work. The process is to remove the guardrails, reinforce the sides per Mr. Curtis' design and then re-install new guardrails. The railing is going to move 2 feet toward the lake, and there are some spot treatments that are needed as well. Public Works will follow the diagram provided by Mr. Curtis, that the IWWC has a copy of. The Town Beach will be used to stockpile the materials needed. Mr. Ventres noted there is plenty of room to store the materials there. There may be some road closures due to the available space on the road.
Mr. Ventres noted that it has not been decided if the work will be completed by Public Works or an outside contractor.
Mr. Dill noted he would like time to review the proposal prior to any approval vote.

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue the application to allow the commissioners to review the project for #W22-20 – Town of East Haddam (applicant & property owner), E.H. Colchester Turnpike Causeway, roadside reinforcement, until Public Works is ready to provide further information. Second by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

d. #W23-02 – Town of East Haddam, (applicant & property owner), Nathan Hale Ray Middle School, 73 Clark Gates Road. Bike Trail. Map 073, Lot 059.

Mr. Ventres provided materials to show the different examples of the bridges that were constructed on the East side. Shalene and Brad Thody provided an overview of the proposed bike trail to the commissioners. The yellow dots on the plan are the proposed crossings. The purple is the new trail that is proposed. Construction examples of bridge crossings for the crossings were provided by Mr. Ventres. The decking would be rough sawn white oak with no sealant or stain. Mr. Thody provided further context on the proposed bridges for each of the crossings given each are different. The plan is to set the supports on the existing stone to limit the amount of digging required.
To address water erosion, Mr. Dill suggested adding stop bars to help divert the water. Erosion on the newer trails has been limited due to work done to put erosion control in place.

Motion by Ms. Burton-Reeve to approve the application for #W23-02 – Town of East Haddam, (applicant & property owner), Nathan Hale Ray Middle School, 73 Clark Gates Road. Bike Trail, with the map dated 3/21/2023. Second by Ms. Augustiny and unanimously approved.

e. #W23-03 – Town of East Haddam Nature Conservancy, (applicant & property owner), Chapman Pond Preserve, River Road, Parking Lot.

Mr. Riggio provided an overview of the project. All the brush and tree branches have been chipped. All the trees that were cut were moved. The next step is to add in silt fence and then remove stumps. Material will be removed, and new material will be brought in to provide a base for the new parking lot. The existing parking lot has quite a bit of water running down the road to the existing vernal pools, which is making it very difficult to maintain that parking lot. The new design will drastically reduce the erosion and stop traffic from going all the way up the hill as well.
The ruts that are in the existing driveway that will no longer be in use will be filled with crushed stone. The new parking lot will hold 16 cars, which is larger than the existing parking lot. The existing parking lot will be left with no further work done to it. The new gate is to prevent cars from traveling to the old parking lot will be installed.
The driveway from River Road was addressed a few years ago, and the entrance was paved as well. There is an area that needs regular clean out on the driveway near the existing wetlands that will be cleaned out during this work as well.

Motion by Ms. Augustiny to approve the application for #W23-03 – Town of East Haddam Nature Conservancy, (applicant & property owner), Chapman Pond Preserve, River Road, Parking Lot, to install a new parking lot and correct water problem, with plans dated 3/21/2023. Second by Ms. Jahne and unanimously approved.

f. #W23-01 – Mr. Brian & Linda Wagner (applicant & property owner), 91 Mott Lane (property location), proposed dock. Map 075, Lot 113.

Mr. Wagner provided an overview of the dock. The dock will be a modular dock, to be professionally installed in two (2) 10 X 5 sections. The dock is made of composite material to be a year round installation. The dock will be secured at the shore, with 2 metal posts. It is a floating dock that moves along the posts as the reservoir level goes up and down.
Mr. Wagner is looking at purchasing a 16’ pontoon boat that is electric. The neighbor’s dock extends about 24’ out and is permanent. This new dock would be inside that size.
The material does not require staining or painting. The deck is 20’ long and 5’ wide.
The order will be placed this spring.

Motion by Ms. Augustiny to approve the application for #W23-01 – Mr. Brian & Linda Wagner (applicant & property owner), 91 Mott Lane (property location), proposed dock, as shone in pictures dated 2/9/2023 and when the dock is in, pictures will be provided to the Land Use Officer. Second by Mr. Jahne and unanimously approved.

7. IWWC Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ventres noted that the East Haddam Fish and Game will be on the next meeting agenda with an official application and will be breaking up each of the pools and their access routes and stockpile areas for ease of reference. Mr. Ventres has not received any feedback from the State or Army Corp. but East Haddam Fish and Game may be able to self-report on the work which is being done to preserve trout's habitat. Mr. Ventres has not seen any plans yet, but provided clarity on what needs to be included. The work will not be completed in a year, and a contractor may be used as well.

Staehley Farm wants to create a new pond for irrigation purposes, down the hill from the previously approved pavilion. Mr. Ventres suggested to them to dig test pits to see if the land will hold water to ensure the work that would need to be done would be worth it.

Mr. Ventres has not heard from McNully on the farm orchard culvert sizing.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Burton-Reeve to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahne and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary