East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission
Land Use Office

Regular Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2024

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, Jennifer Burton-Reeve, David Walls
Members Absent: Daniel Jahne, Bryan Goff
Also Present: James Ventres (Land Use Administrator), John Matucci, P.E., Anne Simpkinson, Malini Harigopal, Kilasnath Purushothaman

Mr. Dill appointed Mr. Walls to be a voting member since two voting members were absent.

3. Approval of Minutes

6. a. Change *It* will not be fixed in place, to read *the gazebo* will not be fixed in place.

A motion by Mr. Walls to approve the June 18, 2024, minutes as amended. Seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve, and unanimously approved.

4. Bills

Bill from $160 from Halloran and Sage to review the Forestry Regulations.

A motion by Ms. Burton-Reeve to pay the bill. Seconded by Mr. Walls, and unanimously approved.

5. Field Inspection Report

Field walks on July 10th, to visit two sites: Lookout Drive and Main Street. In attendance were Mr. Dill, Ms. Augustiny and Ms. Burton-Reeve.

6. Wetlands Permit Review

a. #W24-15 – 85 Schulman Veselak Road (property location), Massimiliano & Debora Barbi (applicant & property owners), Map 050, Lot 085. Proposed construction of a 22x30 garage.

Mr. Ventres noted that Mr. Barbi attended the last meeting and explained the project. Mr. Ventres noted he did not join today since there were no outstanding questions.

Motion by Ms. Augustiny to approve #W24-15 – 85 Schulman Veselak Road (property location), Massimiliano & Debora Barbi (applicant & property owners), Map 050, Lot 085. Proposed construction of a 22x30 garage, with picture taken after it is erected for the Land Use Office. Seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

b. #W24-16 – 60 Lookout Drive (property owner), John Martucci P.E. (applicant), Tsani Sarnese (property owner). Map 087, Lot 032. Proposed septic system repair.

Mr. Martucci, P.E., joined to discuss the points raised at the field walk. At the field walk, there was an ask a questionrelated to the conduit and pipe size. Modified rip rap will be used as well. The removal of the shed is on the plans. The owners have a contractor, and the project is approved by the Health Department. Mr. Ventres asked for an as-built to be provided outlining where the pipe crossing is, so that it is easy to find in the future.

Motion by Mr. Walls to approve #W24-16 – 60 Lookout Drive (property owner), John Martucci (applicant), Tsani Sarnese (property owner). Map 087, Lot 032. Proposed septic system repair, with plans dated 6/4/2024 and with an As-Built to be provided to locate the ends of the conduit. Seconded by Ms. Augustiny and unanimously approved.

c. #W24-17 – 67 Main Street (property location), Malini Harigopal & Kailasnath Purushothaman (property owners). Map 026, Lot 012. Proposed patio.

Mr. Purushothaman provided an overview of the project. It is to install a patio with access from a deck with steppingstones between the two. There are two retaining walls that will be installed. Bigger boulders will be used for one and natural stone will be used for the other. There is a wooden deck, and the plan is to come around the north side of the property from that deck with stepping stones to the patio, but there is a severe drop off very close to the edge of the planned patio. Mr. Dill noticed that severe drop offs can cause erosion when the area is disturbed. The alternative is to come from above the deck to the planned patio. The goal is to even out the landscape and design. The Commission likes to see infiltration for projects that are so close to the river. The materials used are needed to allow water to infiltrate as much as possible. Mr. Ventres can provide information about infiltration possibilities.

There is already a lovely deck and the planned patio will be quite large; there are concerns related to erosion given where it is located. A smaller patio may reduce the erosion concerns. The deck did sustain damage from a fallen tree recently which will require expense to repair (repair work is not part of the application) and a stone patio will not require repair in the future if there is additional tree damage.

Previous owners may have tried to control erosion in the past on the steep bank.

The plans call for about a 2-foot break between the end of the patio and the drop to the river. Discussion ensued related to having a 6-to-8-foot distance from the patio to the drop down to the river.

Discussion ensued related to modifying the application related to reducing the patio, adding a gazebo and adding plantings, which Mr. Pusushothaman and Ms. Harigopal will consider. The contractor explained to the owners the riverside retaining wall is important for erosion control. There is a second retaining wall also on the plans to provide a level spot for the patio. There needs to be drainage information added into the plan, as adding that on the backside of the retaining wall helps keep it stable.

There is a plan to plant shrubs to provide both roots to stabilize the bank and also a barrier to prevent people from walking off the bank.

Mr. Dill asked the owners to talk with the contractor about the suggestions discussed at the meeting and then come back with an updated plan for further reviews. Mr. Ventres will provide a list of native plantings.

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue #W24-17 – 67 Main Street (property location), Malini Harigopal & Kailasnath Purushothaman (property owners). Map 026, Lot 012. Proposed patio. Seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

7. IWWC Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ventres

a. Storm damage to town roads

i. Beebe Road

Mr. Ventres indicated that he has not heard from Public Works. Mr. Dill asked for the Town Engineer to join the next field walk to provide thoughts on what is there and what can be done. There are still outstanding questions related to base elevations that need to be addressed, but the discussion needs to be started to address the concerns.

b. Proposed forestry regulations

No further discussion at this time.

c. #W22-19 – East Shore Drive (property location), Town of East Haddam (applicant and property owner). Proposed culvert replacement.

No further discussion at this time.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Augustiny to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walls and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary