East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission
Land Use Office

Regular Meeting Minutes
August 20, 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, Bryan Goff, Daniel Jahne, Jennifer Burton-Reeve, David Walls
Members Absent:
Also Present: James Ventres (Land Use Administrator), Kailasnath Purushothaman

3. Approval of Minutes

6a. changed "he" to read "Mr. Ventres noted Mr. Barbi"
6.b. remove "an ask", to read "there was a question…"

A motion by Mr. Jahne to approve the July 16, 2024, minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Goff, and unanimously approved.

4. Bills

No bills.

5. Field Inspection Report

No field walk held.

6. Wetlands Permit Review

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

Mr. Purushothaman provided a revised plan from the contractor to the group. The size of the patio was reduced from 50 to 40 feet and moved up from the river about 6 to 8 feet. Mr. Ventres noted that there is still going to be a stone barrier but now it will be sitting on crusted stone with a pipe installed underneath it to direct the water away to reduce the slumping of the bank concern.

Mr. Dill reviewed the concerns outlined from the last meeting. One thing discussed was moving the steps around the deck instead of to the side of the deck to reduce the potential of erosion. The revised plan shows natural steps at the edge of the right side of the deck which is

a steep slope and does not address the erosion concerns the Commission has. Plantings will be along the edge of the patio. Mr. Dill asked for the distance to be added to the plan to denote the 6-8 feet from the edge of the bank to the patio. The plan will also be updated to show that the boulders will be going all the way across and the plants will be continued the whole way upstream of the boulders. Discussion ensued about the narrowness of the space between the deck and the bank, and how hard it would be to bring in equipment to place the boulders. Given the slope and the narrowness of the space between the deck and bank, the Commission suggested putting up a fence instead of boulders. The back wall towards the road will be 2 to 4 feet and may have crushed stone with drainage behind it.

Mr. Dill summarized that the commission is in agreement on the patio and the dimensions but are not in agreement on the access around the current deck to the patio. There is also agreement that plantings and a fence could be put in down by the bank. The dead tree will be cut down but the stump will be left in place.
The commission asked Mr. Purushothaman to contact Mr. Ventres before the contractor starts work.

Motion by Mr. Dill to approve #W24-17 – 67 Main Street (property location), Malini Harigopal & Kailasnath Purushothaman (property owners), with plans amended 8/20/24 and photos to be provided to the Land Use Office upon completion. Map 026, Lot 012. Proposed patio. Seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

b. Application #W24-18 – 129 Bashan Road (property location) (BL), Oscar & Monica Gonzalez (applicant & property owner). Map 057, Lot 114. Proposed construction of a patio and a dock.

A field walk has not been conducted. The commission noted that it has been built and now the owners have to provide an updated plan to the Commission. The location is near the dam at Bashan Lake.

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue and schedule a field walk for #W24-18 – 129 Bashan Road (property location) (BL), Oscar & Monica Gonzalez (applicant & property owner). Map 057, Lot 114. Proposed construction of a patio and a dock. Seconded by Mr. Goff and unanimously approved.

c. Application #W24-19 – 6 Main Street (property location) (CR), The Goodspeed Opera House Foundation Inc. (applicant & property owner). Map 017, Lot 093. Proposed construction of an accessible ramp addition and parking lot rehabilitation.

Mr. Ventres provided an overview of the project, which is to revamp the parking lot and put in new lighting that is up to date, with islands in the parking lot. Plantings will be included and need to be explained. The parking lot is off of Lumberyard Road. The islands with plantings are being used to handle runoff. The whole parking lot is in the flood plain. The plan shows the surface being paved but there are also pervious surfaces at the end, which are new parking spaces. Mr. Dill asked Mr. Ventres to send the plan to the Town Engineer as well for review, in particular asking the Town Engineer to review the islands and plantings. P&Z will also review the plan given the lighting changes.

Motion by Ms. Augustiny to continue and schedule a field walk #W24-19 – 6 Main Street (property location) (CR), The Goodspeed Opera House Foundation Inc. (applicant & property owner). Map 017, Lot 093. Proposed construction of an accessible ramp addition and parking lot rehabilitation. Seconded by Mr. Goff and unanimously approved.

7. IWWC Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ventres noted that he did not hear much given he was on vacation. Mr. Dill received a complaint noting the Bailey's Beach property EHLT easement conditions are not being honored. Mr. Ventres noted the conservation easement has stronger language than the wetlands regulations.

a. Storm damage to town roads

i. Beebe Road

Mr. Ventres compiled all the emails that have happened related to the road concern. He provided an overview of the project and work that happened. The 4 pipes have been installed, but Public Works has not finished the work. Mr. Dill noted that IWWC has no idea how the Town came up with the elevations of all the pipes. Based on the existing situation with the old pipes, there should be a benchmark. Mr. Dill still wants a field walk and wants the Town Engineer to join the field walk as well. The Town Engineer was advising Public Works, but Public Works was hedging removing the materials or addressing the last pieces of work needed. Mr. Dill reiterated that a Field Walk needs to be scheduled with the Town Engineer joining it.

b. Proposed forestry regulations

Mr. Ventres noted that he received word from DEEP that the Forestry regulations must be separated from the body of the IWWC regulations. Mr. Ventres was going to put the Forestry regulations in as an appendix, but now will change that given the DEEP's guidance. He has provided the regulations one more time and asked the commission to review again. He will wait 30 days and then will double check with DEEP that nothing has changed on how they want them included with the IWWC regulations, and then a Public Hearing will be scheduled.

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 Mr. Goff to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walls and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary