

**Town of Barkhamsted
Low Impact Development
Land Use Committee
December 15, 2010
7:00 PM Town Hall**

Minutes

Attendees: Michael Beauchene, Roger Behrens, John Greaser, Tim Grohowski, Scott Johnstone, Michael Klemens (Cary Institute), Chris Lavieri, Tom Nelson, Mario Santoro, and Don Stein.

Johnny Polderman and Deb Simon were absent.

Also present were Marty Connor (Town Planner) and Tom Grimaldi (Town Engineer).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

A motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2010, as amended to correct meeting attendance, was made by Chris Lavieri, seconded by Scott Johnstone and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: Michael Klemens presented the summary of his biodiversity study (attached). He pointed out that he recommends that vernal pools be protected for a distance of 750' from the high water mark and that the Inland Wetlands Commission provide a 150' buffer for steep grade streams. As an example, Granby requires a 100' buffer for wetlands and 200' for watercourses.

His findings from the survey indicate that the water quality in town is very good based on the health of the species and the diversity of the species.

MOTION: On a motion made by Scott Johnstone, seconded by Don Stein and passed unanimously, the committee accepted the zoning and subdivision regulation changes proposed by Marty Connor for the purpose of presenting these changes at the public information meeting in February.

DISCUSSION: Tom Grimaldi presented proposed modifications to the driveway and street design ordinances, including cross sections for different types of roads. Modifications to the material handed out include:

- Add words to ¶D of the driveway regulations to say “no driveway shall allow untreated water to discharge to a watercourse”.
- ¶A2 of the street design regulations will be changed to show that roads shall be curbless except if they meet one of the three conditions listed in this paragraph.

- Minor corrections were proposed for ¶D of the street design regulations
- ¶J will be changed to clarify that a private road has to have sufficient frontage to be a town road, but that the private road right-of-way must be less than 45' so that it cannot become a town road.
- The various cross sections are to be cross referenced in an appendix to the street regulations.
- ¶H will be corrected for the length of the road and the corresponding width.
- All references to the requirement to use fertilizer and lime will be eliminated.
- Other minor changes were also suggested, mostly related to wording.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 5th at 7:00 PM in Town Hall. The purpose for this meeting will be to approve the road and driveway regulation changes and to finalize the information to be presented at the public meeting. The public information session to receive feedback on the findings of the study will be held on Wednesday, February 2nd at the Barkhamsted School.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman

Biodiversity Summary: Barkhamsted LID Survey 2010
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Access was granted to a total of 54 parcels totaling 3,245 acres. A total of 46 of these parcels were visited at least once during the survey period. The eight parcels not surveyed totaled approximately 500 acres. These parcels were not surveyed due to the following factors: either they contained no wetlands or potential habitat for critical species; they were contiguous with wetland systems already surveyed on adjacent parcels; or they were deemed unimportant to the overall biodiversity study (e.g., the Town transfer station property). Field work was conducted by Eric Davison, Deb Simon, and Michael Klemens. We gratefully acknowledge the landowners who granted permission for us to access their properties and for the support and encouragement of the Barkhamsted LID committee.

State-listed amphibian and reptile species observed during the survey include wood turtle, (*Clemmys insculpta*), box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*) and spring salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*). The latter is a State-listed threatened species, the former three all State-listed special concern species.

A total of five wood turtle observations were observed during the study period including two individuals observed by Michael Beauchene during stream sampling work conducted in September. All five observations were within or along the banks of the Farmington River near its confluence with Morgan Brook. One additional record, an individual observed in 2000 by Deb Simon on Riverton Road near the Winchester town line, was also included in the overall dataset.

One box turtle was observed in a field bordering the Farmington River. This observation represents a significant range extension for this species in Connecticut. Additional field work will be needed to determine if this was a released turtle or represents an indigenous population.

The Jefferson salamander has not previously been reported from Barkhamsted. This species was confirmed breeding in two vernal pools near the Farmington River, one adjacent to West River Road and one adjacent to East River Road.

The spring salamander is a State-listed threatened species which is regionally rare but known to occur in Barkhamsted (Klemens, 1993: *Amphibians and Reptiles of Connecticut and Adjacent Regions*). This species inhabits coldwater streams and groundwater seepages in forested areas. Numerous suitable streams and seepages were surveyed within the study area. Spring salamanders were observed at only one site, in Morgan Brook near West-West Hill Road. This is a significant range extension for this species into the western section of the town of Barkhamsted.

A total of eighteen vernal pools were identified in the study area. The pools are relatively evenly distributed throughout the study area. These vernal pools provide breeding habitat for three vernal pool obligate amphibians, the wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*), spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) and Jefferson salamander. The primary factor limiting the occurrence of vernal pools in Barkhamsted is the steeply-sloping topography which prevents the development of long- hydroperiod wetlands.

The streams in the study area contained robust populations of dusky (*Desmognathus fuscus*) and two-lined (*Eurycea bislineata*) salamanders. Barkhamsted is amply supplied with an abundance of clean and cold headwater streams, many originating in densely forested, perched swamps. These streams, swamps, and vernal pools are at risk from inappropriate development. The LID practices, regulations, and procedures that are being developed by the LID committee in tandem with this study will not only protect Barkhamsted's unique biodiversity, but will also protect the quality of the headwater wetlands that all ultimately drain into the Farmington River.

We plan to have a completed report of the biodiversity study within the first two months of 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael W. Klemens, PhD
Research and Policy Conservationist
Cary Institute
December 14, 2010