

**TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION - WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2010
BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL – 6:00PM**

APPROVED: _____
DATE: **November 2, 2010**

PRESENT: Chairman John Greaser, Jesse Edmands, Linda Ganem, Michael Ream; Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer Rista Malanca, Recording Secretary Stacey Sefcik.
ABSENT: Gary Reynolds, Martha Sullivan, Caprice Shaw, Christopher Tooker; Alternate Christopher Labbe.

Chairman John Greaser called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. All regular members present were seated for the meeting. The entire proceedings were recorded on audio tape and are available at the Town Hall.

1. NEW APPLICATIONS:
No business was discussed.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Town of Barkhamsted, applicant. Repair to Miner Lane drainage pond.

Robert Hiltbrand addressed the Commission on behalf of the Town and explained the proposed plan to repair the drainage pond and stabilize the site. Mr. Hiltbrand briefly explained the causes of the washout, noting flaws in the design of the current drainage basin outlet. He then explained revisions to the proposed plans to repair the detention pond and outlet. Mr. Hiltbrand stated that runoff from Miner Lane would be channeled to a sedimentation pool, where it would flow through a snakelike channel in order to lengthen its travel time and ability to settle out sedimentation; from there, it would enter an outfall area and be piped down the hill. Mr. Hiltbrand explained that 20 years' worth of sedimentation had built up at the outfall area and would have to be dug out. He also explained that an emergency spillway would be created to divert some of the water to an adjacent forested area in the event of a clog in the pipe. Mr. Hiltbrand stated that the current trail on MDC property would be abandoned and a new one constructed to the east over a 48-inch culvert to ensure runoff did not wash out this new trail.

Mr. Stein, noting that the plans called for the channel in the detention pond to be constructed with berms covered in Filtrex Sox, asked whether there might be a lower cost alternative in the event the cost of the Filtrex was prohibitive. Mr. Hiltbrand replied affirmatively, stating that it could be simply made of dirt, but that it would have to be constructed carefully. He also suggested spreading out the project over 2 fiscal years, noting that the work in the detention pond could not be done until the next dry season. Mr. Ream asked if the new system could withstand a 100-year storm, and Mr. Hiltbrand replied affirmatively. Mr. Hiltbrand then explained plans to stabilize the site, stating that there would be a 3:1 slope which would be covered with jute mesh fabric. Ms. Malanca asked whether the new system would require any maintenance, and Mr. Hiltbrand stated that the Town would have to ensure that there was no vegetation on the downslope of the berm by the detention pond, particularly no trees that could potentially fall and undermine the bank. Mr. Hiltbrand then explained that the entire project would probably take 3 weeks to complete.

Mr. Stein noted that the Northwest Conservation District and the Farmington River Coordinating Committee provided extensive financial and technical help with this project. He also expressed appreciation to the MDC for how cooperative they have been throughout the project, noting that they had agreed to provide the 48-inch culvert for the new trail.

Mr. Greaser opened the floor to public comment; however, no one was present to ask questions.

The Commission agreed to close the public hearing at 6:25PM.

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B. Amendments to Inland Wetlands Regulations.

Ms. Malanca distributed copies of a memo from Town Planner Martin Connor dated May 17, 2010. She explained that the proposed changes were the result of work by Mr. Connor and the Town's Low Impact Development Committee. Ms. Malanca noted that the proposed changes were recommended by the DEP. Mr. Stein explained that there would also be substantial changes to the Zoning Regulations and Road Ordinances to complement these changes, and that these additional changes would likely be ready by January.

Mr. Greaser opened the floor to public comment; however, no one was present to ask questions.

The Commission agreed to close the public hearing at 6:32PM.

3. PENDING APPLICATIONS:

A. Town of Barkhamsted, applicant. Repair to Miner Lane drainage pond.

Ms. Ganem stated that the proposal seemed to be the most feasible solution to the problem. Ms. Malanca expressed approval of the revised plan. Mr. Greaser stated that he believed the revised plan which incorporated LID techniques was much better than the previous version. Ms. Malanca then informed the Commission that, if Filtrex was too expensive, there were many other options the Town could use in its place.

MOTION Ms. Ganem, second Mr. Edmands, to approve the application in the matter of **Town of Barkhamsted, applicant. Repair to Miner Lane drainage pond**, having duly considered the proposal and finding there were no other reasonable and prudent alternatives, with the following additional conditions:

- 1) All detention pond work must be done in the dry season.
- 2) The Inland Wetlands Enforcement Official will inspect the site annually in order to identify any needed corrective action.

IN FAVOR: Mr. Greaser, Mr. Edmands, Ms. Ganem, and Mr. Ream.
OPPOSED: None.
ABSTENTIONS: None.

The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Amendments to Inland Wetlands Regulations.

MOTION Mr. Edmands, second Mr. Ream, to adopt the **Amendments to Inland Wetlands Regulations** contained the memo from Martin Connor, AICP dated May 17, 2010 regarding "Barkhamsted Low Impact Development Recommendations," to be effective the day after the date of publication; unanimously approved.

4. INLAND WETLANDS ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

No business was discussed.

MOTION Mr. Edmands, second Mr. Ream, to amend the agenda to discuss item 7A first and then return to the agenda as written; unanimously approved.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS LEGAL AND PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

A. STEAP Grant for School Playscape and Drainage Repair.

First Selectman Don Stein informed the Commission that the Town had received a STEAP grant to build a playscape at the elementary school and also to repair the adjacent drainage basin. Mr. Stein explained that the school roof gutters drained into this basin; however, the basin ponds up and in the winter can be several feet deep, which is unsafe in an area where children play. He stated that the work would not be done until March or April, and the Town would work with Ms. Malanca to ensure all appropriate regulations are followed.

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5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. September 7, 2010 regular meeting minutes.

MOTION Ms. Ganem, second Mr. Edmands, to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2010 regular meeting as written; unanimously approved.

Ms. Ganem exited the meeting for the evening at 6:47PM.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Greaser distributed Farmington River Watershed Association Fall 2010 newsletter for review. Mr. Edmands informed the Commission that the DEP was producing a DVD for commissioners regarding site visits. Mr. Greaser then passed around the August 2010 edition of *Connecticut Town & City* and informed the Commission that the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) would be holding its annual meeting on Saturday, November 13th.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS LEGAL AND PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

B. Woodland Acres.

Ms. Malanca informed the Commission that, as required by their approval, the developers of Woodland Acres had sent in their annual report on time. She stated that she had also done a site visit and everything appeared satisfactory.

MOTION Mr. Edmands, second Mr. Ream, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey M. Sefcik,
Inland Wetlands Commission Recording Secretary