

**TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED - INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING – MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012  
SITE WALK, 10 MOUNTAIN ROAD – 5PM  
MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SITE WALK  
BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL**

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESENT:** Chairman John Greaser, Michael Ream, Gary Reynolds, Martha Sullivan, Christopher Tooker; Interim Wetlands Enforcement Officer Debra Brydon; Recording Secretary Stacey Sefcik.

**ABSENT:** Linda Ganem; Jesse Edmands; Alternate Christopher Labbe\*.

\*Alternate Christopher Labbe was present at both the site walk and in the audience at the regular meeting; however, he was not seated for the evening.\*\*

**SITE WALK:**

The site walk commenced at 5PM. Members of the Commission visited the site of work proposed in **Town of Barkhamsted, applicant, Charles D. Ahles, et al., owners, Mountain Road – (PHASE I) Application for stabilization of stream banks and repairs to culverts in unnamed tributary to the Farmington River** and **Town of Barkhamsted, applicant, Mark A. Telford, et al., owners, Mountain Road – (PHASE II) Application to repair a municipal highway culvert, abate flooding, and stabilize stream banks to reduce sedimentation of the Farmington River**. The Commission walked the length of the tributary from its entrance into the Farmington River, past the Riverton Inn, all the way to the northern end of the Ahles property. Dave Battista, PE, engineer for the project, was also in attendance to explain the proposed work and orient the Commission to the locations depicted on the plans. The Commission visited all sites depicted on the plans for Phases I and II, as well as the site of a planned Phase III. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ahles, 10 Mountain Road, attended the portions of the site walk on the Ahles and Ransom properties. The site walk concluded at 6:25PM. At the conclusion of the site walk, all members drove back to the Barkhamsted Town Hall to conduct their monthly meeting.

**MEETING:**

Chairman John Greaser called the meeting to order at 6:46PM. All regular members present were seated for the meeting. The entire proceedings were recorded digitally and are available at the Town Hall.

**1. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A. Town of Barkhamsted, applicant, Charles D. Ahles, et al., owners, Mountain Road – (PHASE I) Application for stabilization of stream banks and repairs to culverts in unnamed tributary to the Farmington River.**

**B. Town of Barkhamsted, applicant, Mark A. Telford, et al., owners, Mountain Road – (PHASE II) Application to repair a municipal highway culvert, abate flooding, and stabilize stream banks to reduce sedimentation of the Farmington River.**

The Commission agreed to discuss both items simultaneously. Mr. Greaser asked Mr. Battista to give information regarding their consideration of feasible and prudent alternatives. For Phase I, Mr. Battista explained that they had considered doing nothing at all; however, this was overruled due to public safety concerns as a result of the continued erosion. He explained that a bioengineered channel was also considered, which would stabilize the steep drop of the stream with log jams and vegetation instead of rock. Mr. Battista explained that this option was not selected due to the 20% to 25% slope of the area; at this grade, the water velocity would be too fast and the channel would not be able to withstand the stress. A rock chute had been considered; this had also been suggested by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This would have been the least expensive option and would have consisted of a rip-rap lined channel going from the culvert, down to the Ransom farm, and ultimately ending in a plunge pool. Property owner Charles Ahles did not like this alternative, nor did Liz Lacey of the National Park Service, which had also been involved in this project. Lastly, a manhole and pipe had been considered.

## IWC Minutes – 040312

For Phase II, Mr. Battista explained that they had again considered doing nothing at all; this again was overruled as the current system could only handle a 25-year storm and was exposing the Farmington River to possible future contamination with raw sewage. The second option was to use the current system and divert excess through the yard of the Riverton Inn to a pipe under Route 20 leading to the Farmington River. This option was extremely expensive. Another option was to construct a storm sewer all the way from the Ahles property to the bridge and then create an outlet on the Farmington River; this too was extremely expensive. Ultimately, the choice selected and now before the Commission wound up being the least expensive.

Mr. Tooker asked Mr. Battista questions regarding the culvert by the Ahles property from Phase I and the plunge pool by the Farmington River in Phase II. Mr. Reynolds distributed to the Commission pictures of similar work done in Torrington by Besse Pond.

Mr. Greaser then opened the floor to public comment; however, no one present in the audience expressed a desire to speak.

**MOTION** Mr. Ream, second Mr. Reynolds, to close the public hearing in both the matter of **Town of Barkhamsted, applicant, Charles D. Ahles, et al., owners, Mountain Road – (PHASE I) Application for stabilization of stream banks and repairs to culverts in unnamed tributary to the Farmington River** and the matter of **Town of Barkhamsted, applicant, Mark A. Telford, et al., owners, Mountain Road – (PHASE II) Application to repair a municipal highway culvert, abate flooding, and stabilize stream banks to reduce sedimentation of the Farmington River**; unanimously approved.

### 3. PENDING APPLICATIONS:

- A. **Town of Barkhamsted, applicant, Charles D. Ahles, et al., owners, Mountain Road – (PHASE I) Application for stabilization of stream banks and repairs to culverts in unnamed tributary to the Farmington River.**
- B. **Town of Barkhamsted, applicant, Mark A. Telford, et al., owners, Mountain Road – (PHASE II) Application to repair a municipal highway culvert, abate flooding, and stabilize stream banks to reduce sedimentation of the Farmington River.**

The Commission agreed to discuss both items simultaneously. They then reviewed both applications against each criterion listed in Section 10.4 of the Inland Wetlands Regulations.

**MOTION** Mr. Tooker, second Mr. Ream, to approve both **Town of Barkhamsted, applicant, Charles D. Ahles, et al., owners, Mountain Road – (PHASE I) Application for stabilization of stream banks and repairs to culverts in unnamed tributary to the Farmington River** and **Town of Barkhamsted, applicant, Mark A. Telford, et al., owners, Mountain Road – (PHASE II) Application to repair a municipal highway culvert, abate flooding, and stabilize stream banks to reduce sedimentation of the Farmington River**, finding that there are no other more feasible and prudent alternatives, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Activity should follow 2002 Sedimentation and Erosion Control Guidelines, which should be noted on the plans.
- 2. Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer is to be notified in writing one week prior to construction.
- 3. Any excess materials are to be removed from the site (no stockpiling), including any demolition materials.
- 4. If individual site plans differ in any way from the submitted plans, then the individual site plan must be resubmitted to the Inland Wetlands Commission.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**IWC Minutes - 040312**

**4. INLAND WETLANDS ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT.**

Ms. Brydon briefly reviewed her enforcement activities over the previous month. She stated that she had issued an agent determination for a property on West River Road so that the owner could install another catch basin. Ms. Brydon informed the Commission that a company had been contracted to develop GIS mapping for the Town of Barkhamsted; however, at this time the program would not include an inland wetlands overlay.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**A. March 6, 2012 regular meeting.**

**MOTION** Mr. Reynolds, second Mr. Ream, to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2012 regular meeting with the following corrections:

1. Change the name from "Charles D. Ahles" to "Mark A. Telford" in agenda items 2B and 3C; unanimously approved.
2. In the first line of the motion at the top of page 3, change "approved" to "approve".

The motion was unanimously approved.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Commission reviewed the March/April 2012 edition of *Connecticut Wildlife*.

**MOTION** Ms. Sullivan, second Mr. Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41PM; unanimously approved.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Stacey M. Sefcik  
Recording Secretary**