

**TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012 AT 7PM -- BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL**

APPROVED: _____

DATE:

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

ABSENT: Jesse Edmands, Martha Sullivan; Alternate Christopher Labbe*.

Chairman John Greaser called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. All regular members present were seated for the meeting. The entire proceedings were recorded digitally and are available at the Town Hall.

*Alternate Christopher Labbe was present in the audience but not seated at the Commission's meeting table for items 1, 2, 3A, and 3B; he joined the Commissioners at the meeting table for items 3A and 4-7.

1. NEW APPLICATIONS:

No business was discussed.

2. 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.

Dave Battista, P.E. of Lenard Engineering addressed the Commission regarding both agenda items 2A and 2B. Mr. Battista submitted proof of notice to abutting neighbors as well as copies of signs posted at the subject property.

Mr. Battista explained that the stream channel running along several properties on Mountain Road had been destroyed by erosion. He stated that at some point in the past, the Town had contracted someone to partially repair the stream channel using large boulders as rip rap; however, this had not been successful in all locations and some areas continued to erode. Mr. Battista explained that coarser particles had settled out predominantly at the Ransom farm and at the Riverton Inn, with the finer material being carried down into the Farmington River, where a large plume of sand can be seen where this tributary enters. He explained that the situation had been worsened by Tropical Storm Irene and Winter Storm Alfred in 2011, to the point that stormwater overtopped the channel behind the Riverton Inn, flowed over the parking lot and eroded the soil over the Riverton Inn's septic field before entering the Farmington River. Mr. Battista explained that the Town had secured \$500,000 in grant money from the federal government to address this situation, which the Town had in part used to create the two engineered plans for review by the Commission at this meeting. It was hoped that the remaining funds would cover and complete Phase I work and that the Town would be able to secure additional funding at a later date to complete the approved and permitted work in Phase II. Mr. Battista then distributed pictures to the Commission of the area under discussion which were taken from several different viewpoints. There were pictures of the sand plume into the Farmington River, pictures of the pipes adjacent to and under the Riverton Inn, and pictures of parts of Mountain Road which were in danger of being undermined by continued erosion.

Mr. Battista then reviewed the work proposed in Phase I. He explained that they planned to insert a 2-inch thick polyethylene liner into the piping under Mountain Road near Charles Ahles residence. This liner was expected to extend the life of the pipe for 20-30 years. On each side of the pipe, a new flared inlet as well as a new outlet with wingwalls were to be constructed. The stream channel would be improved by building a boulder cascade with rip rap in a series of steps using 3-foot diameter boulders. Mr. Battista estimated that this location had a 40-50 foot drop in elevation. He explained that a temporary hauling road would be created off of Mountain Road to access this location. Each step of the drop would be constructed with weirs filled with topsoil and planted with dogwood.

Mr. Ream questioned whether using an insert in the pipe under Mountain Road would decrease diameter and the capacity of the pipe. Mr. Battista explained that the pipe was oversized and corrugated, whereas with the liner it would now be smooth; therefore, the net result would actually be the same. He stated that the pipe and liner system passed an 100-year flow calculation. Mr. Battista explained that the Town had reviewed alternatives to this proposal; however, it would have cost at least \$100,000 additional and would have been a larger structure with potentially more disturbance to the area. Mr. Battista then reviewed the erosion and sedimentation controls as detailed on the plans.

Mr. Battista then reviewed the work proposed in Phase II. He explained that there was a bend in the stream channel near the Riverton Inn where lots of deposition of material occurred. He proposed reconstructing the channel in this location using smaller rip rap and a 36" diameter pipe. Mr. Battista explained that the Army Corps of Engineers had reviewed this portion of the plan and had requested the Town consider additional plantings in this area, which Mr. Battista stated was acceptable. To the south of this bend in the channel, he proposed widening the channel on the western side. The channel would then be rerouted so that it no longer went underneath the Riverton Inn; it would now flow to the north of the building. Past the Riverton Inn, the stream would continue through a pipe under the road to the outlet at the Farmington River. An outlet apron and plunge pool were to be built on the opposite side of the street from the Riverton Inn. Mr. Battista stated that most of the work could be done in dry conditions, and he explained that the work of moving the channel from under the Riverton Inn would be in tight working conditions. He also explained that the plan called for installing new septic tanks at the Riverton Inn since their current location was the site of the proposed relocation of the stream channel. Mr. Battista explained that the outlet at the Farmington River was within the floodplain and the Farmington River overlay and was also going to require working in tight conditions.

Hearing no questions from the Commission, Mr. Greaser opened the floor to public comment.

Charles Ahles, Mountain Road, addressed the Commission in favor of the two applications. He also asked if the project would use rocks and boulders currently onsite, and Mr. Battista responded affirmatively.

Samantha McCord, resident, next addressed the Commission to verify whether the proposed work would impact her property. She reviewed the watershed map with Mr. Battista and found that the work proposed was not impacting the stream on her property.

Members of the Commission discussed holding a site walk in order to view the areas under discussion for both applications.

MOTION Mr. Ream, second Mr. Reynolds, to continue the public hearings 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** to April 3, 2012, at which time a special site walk meeting will be held on site at 5PM with the regular business meeting of the Inland Wetlands Commission to be held at Town Hall immediately following; unanimously approved.

3. PENDING APPLICATIONS:

A. **Jay Buck, 25 Aquatic Road, applicant/owner – Application for repair of existing stone wall and releve patio.**

Mr. Buck addressed the Commission regarding this application. As requested at an earlier meeting, Mr. Buck submitted a detailed construction sequence. He stated that he did not plan on doing the work on his waterfront until the next drawdown. However, if the Commission allowed it, he would potentially complete the work adjacent to his driveway. He informed the Commission that in the interim he had obtained a permit from the Town of New Hartford for the work along that portion of his shoreline.

IWC Minutes – 030612

MOTION Mr. Reynolds, second Mr. Ream, to approved the application in the matter of **Jay Buck, 25 Aquatic Road, applicant/owner – Application for repair of existing stone wall and relevel patio** with the condition that the applicant is to notify the Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer in writing prior to the commencement of any work at the shoreline or by the driveway; unanimously approved.

- B. 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.**

The Commission agreed to continue this matter to the April 3, 2012 meeting.

- C. 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 continue this matter to the April 3, 2012 meeting.

4. INLAND WETLANDS ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT.

Ms. Brydon briefly reviewed her enforcement activities over the previous month. She also distributed to the Commission pictures of timber harvesting equipment being used by Certified Forester Andrew Bosse on MDC property for a timber harvest that had been approved by the Commission the previous spring.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. February 2, 2012 regular meeting.**

MOTION Ms. Ganem, second Mr. Ream, to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2012 regular meeting as written; unanimously approved.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

No business was discussed.

7. OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION.

No business was discussed.

MOTION Ms. Ganem, second Mr. Tooker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

**Stacey M. Sefcik
Recording Secretary**