

**TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011 AT 7PM
BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL**

APPROVED: _____

DATE:

PRESENT: Chairman John Greaser, Linda Ganem, Gary Reynolds, Martha Sullivan; Interim Wetlands Enforcement Officer Debra Brydon; Recording Secretary Stacey Sefcik.

ABSENT: Jesse Edmands, Michael Ream, Christopher Tooker; Alternate Christopher Labbe.

Chairman John Greaser called the meeting to order at 7:20PM. All regular members present were seated for the meeting. The entire proceedings were recorded digitally and are available at the Town Hall.

1. NEW APPLICATIONS:

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

Mr. Buck addressed the Commission to briefly explain his application for repair of an existing stone wall along the shoreline and releveling of the patio. He stated that rocks onsite would be used for the project, and no heavy equipment would be needed. The Commission reviewed the application and the pictures submitted by Mr. Buck. Mr. Buck explained that the project was planned as soon as possible, assuming the weather continued to hold, and it was estimated to take 3-4 days to complete.

Members of the Commission had questions regarding whether any additional material was to be used, and Mr. Buck called his contractor, Jim Volovski to address these questions. Mr. Buck informed Mr. Volovski that he was on speaker phone, and the Commission addressed their questions to him. When asked if material would need to be brought in, Mr. Volovski replied that he did not believe so but if it was, it would be native field stone. He then explained his plans to stabilize the area behind the stone wall using topsoil, weed barrier paper, and grass seed. Both Mr. Volovski and Mr. Buck stated that the staging area would be more than 100 feet away from the lake.

MOTION Mr. Reynolds, second Ms. Sullivan, to accept the application in the matter of **Jay Buck, 25 Aquatic Road, applicant/owner – Application for repair of existing stone wall and relevel patio**, determine it to be nonsignificant, and to schedule it for further discussion at the January 3, 2012 regular meeting; unanimously approved.

The Commission requested a more detailed written construction sequence for the January meeting.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Timothy Strini, 70 Eddy Road, applicant/owner – Application for repair work along brook at residence.

Mr. Strini addressed the Commission regarding this matter and submitted proof of notice to abutting neighbors. Mr. Greaser stated for the record that he had visited the site the previous weekend. The Commission then reviewed pictures of the site submitted by Mr. Strini. Mr. Strini explained that as a result of Tropical Storm Irene, water from the brook had washed away the previous beach area; so he had put down 4 yards of sand there prior to obtaining a permit. He was also now asking permission to plant pine trees approximately 60 feet from the brook and, in order to prevent erosion, to terrace the yard in an area where grass did not grow. Ms. Ganem questioned whether Mr. Strini had considered using pebbles instead of beach sand; Mr. Strini said he had not, but he was willing to do so if required. He explained that the beach area had been there when he purchased the property 25 years ago. The Commission discussed various alternatives to beach sand including planting grass or planting junipers along the shoreline. Ms. Brydon suggested that Mr. Strini could contact Sean Haydon of the Northwest Conservation District for assistance with selecting appropriate plantings. Members of the Commission questioned whether anything would be able to grow given the area had been covered with sand for so long. Mr. Reynolds expressed the belief that plants could grow provided Mr. Strini dug down at least 6 inches and replaced the beach sand with topsoil.

IWC Minutes – 120611

Turning to the proposed terracing of the yard, the Commission again discussed alternative plantings to prevent erosion. Members of the Commission noted no issues with the proposed tree plantings 60 feet from the brook.

Hearing no further discussion from the Commission, Mr. Greaser opened the floor for public comment. John Roberts, 66 Eddy Road, spoke in favor of the application. Paul Beauchene, 56 Eddy Road, explained that he lived downstream from the applicant and wanted the area stabilized so it did not affect his property. Ms. Brydon then read into the record a letter from John and Anne Tancredi, 77 Eddy Road, which expressed support for the application.

MOTION Ms. Sullivan, second Ms. Ganem, to close the public hearing in the matter of **Timothy Strini, 70 Eddy Road, applicant/owner – Application for repair work along brook at residence;** unanimously approved.

B. Proposed changes to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations to amend Sections 4.1, 4.2, 7.10, and 11.6.

Ms. Brydon briefly reviewed with the Commission the proposed changes to the regulations. She explained that emergency use of pond water to put out fires was now a permitted use as of right. Further, subject to specific conditions and a jurisdictional review by the Commission, construction of dry hydrants by Town fire personnel was also permitted. In addition, permits issued prior to July 1, 2011 which did not expire before May 9, 2011 would now be valid for 4 additional years.

Hearing no comments or questions from the Commission, Mr. Greaser opened the floor to public comment. No one present expressed a desire to speak.

MOTION Ms. Ganem, second Ms. Sullivan, to close the public hearing in the matter of **Proposed changes to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations to amend Sections 4.1, 4.2, 7.10, and 11.6;** unanimously approved.

3. PENDING APPLICATIONS:

A. Timothy Strini, 70 Eddy Road, applicant/owner – Application for repair work along brook at residence.

MOTION Ms. Sullivan, second Mr. Reynolds, to approve the application in the matter of **Timothy Strini, 70 Eddy Road, applicant/owner – Application for repair work along brook at residence** with the following conditions in addition to the Commission's standard conditions:

1. No heavy equipment is to be used to perform the work.
2. A 4-foot wide area along the bank on the beach side of the brook is to be stabilized using only natural and indigenous plantings.
3. The planting plans for both the beach side of the brook and the north side of the bank are to be approved by the Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer prior to the commencement of any work, and both plans should use only natural and indigenous plantings.

The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Proposed changes to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations to amend Sections 4.1, 4.2, 7.10, and 11.6.

MOTION Mr. Reynolds, second Ms. Ganem, to adopt the proposed changes to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations to amend Sections 4.1, 4.2, 7.10, and 11.6 with an effective date of the day after the date of publication; unanimously approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. November 8, 2011 special meeting.

IWC Minutes – 120611

MOTION Ms. Sullivan, second Mr. Reynolds to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011 special meeting as written; unanimously approved.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Greaser distributed copies of the Fall 2011 edition of *The Habitat* to all Commissioners. Ms. Brydon also passed around copies of the Upland Review Guidelines published by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

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

A. Inland Wetlands Enforcement Report.

Ms. Brydon gave the Commission a brief report of her enforcement activities over the previous month.

MOTION Ms. Sullivan, second Mr. Reynolds, to amend the agenda to add discussion of item 6B; unanimously approved.

B. 2012 Regular Meeting Schedule.

Noting that the 2012 Regular Meeting Schedule had not yet been compiled, Ms. Brydon asked the Commission if they wanted to schedule a meeting for the normal 1st Tuesday of the month for January. The Commission then agreed to schedule a regular meeting for January 3, 2012 at 7PM in Barkhamsted Town Hall.

MOTION Ms. Sullivan, second Mr. Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey M. Sefcik
Recording Secretary