

**Town of West Hartford
Conservation and Environment Commission
Meeting Agenda
August 27, 2018, 7:00 PM
Town Hall, Room 314**

The Commission was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call, Commissioners Matt Macunas, Ed Newton, Emily Graner-Sexton, Emilee Scott, Maria Roja and Jessica Schaeffer-Helmecki were in attendance

Old Business: Roja moved to adopt the July 30, 2018 meeting minutes; Graner-Sexton seconded.

West Hartford Land Trust Informational Presentation

Dave Sagers, West Hartford Land Trust (the Trust) President, presented a brief overview of the land trust, its mission and its practices. Sagers stated the Trust was established in 2002 owns approximately 17 acres across six parcels in town. The majority of the Trust's property was bequeathed to it or donated by owners of undevelopable land (e.g., wetlands) in exchange for tax benefits. The Trust advocates for the conservation and preservation of open space. It performs advocacy and conservation easement services. It is seeking to arrange meetings with local real estate practices.

New Business:

- 1) 203 Tunxis Road-** Application (IWW #1085) of James and Barbara Carter (R.O.), requesting approval of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit to conduct certain regulated activities, which may have an adverse impact on a wetland and watercourse area. The applicant proposes to replace an existing platform/dock along the edge of Woodridge Lake. The proposed plan was prepared and presented by James Carter.

The applicant proposes replacing the 40 year old 4' by 4' post-secured wooden platform with a 4' by 8' platform during the annual drawdown of the lake. Applicant will drill down into the lake bed to determine the posts' bearing capacity. Then techno metal post helical piles will be employed to minimize anchoring-related environmental disturbance; this, rather than the sonotube plus concrete approach. The applicant will use traditional sediment controls including a silt fence and stacked hay bales.

2) 37 Buena Vista Road- Application (IWW #1086) of Town of West Hartford, requesting approval of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit to conduct certain regulated activities, which may have an adverse impact on a wetland and watercourse area. The applicant proposes to perform work in various areas of the Buena Vista Golf Course to address erosion at three (3) outlets and an area west of Tunxis Road. The proposed plan is expected to disturb 3,336.48 sf of wetlands and 2,790.45 sf of regulated area. It was prepared and presented by Duane Martin, West Hartford Town Engineer, Julie Viera, West Hartford Civil Engineer, and Edward Pawlak, soil scientist of Connecticut Ecosystems.

The applicant submitted a similar, but more expansive plan, 20 years ago. Both plans were created with the goal of minimizing sediment erosion and sediment run-off into the lake. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection assessed the original plan as too invasive. As such, the current proposal focuses on three primary discharge points.

In November 2017, Pawlak delineated the wetlands and, in spring 2018, an additional area adjacent to Tunxis Road. Overall approximately 1.2 acres were flagged. Pawlak investigated sediment discharge from three culverts. The largest culvert (at 48"), which carries flow from the Farmington area near UConn Medical Center, was discharging turbid, brown, sediment-laden water at a point with a scoured out bowl. The sediment indicated it originated upstream of the golf course. Viera recommended a plunge pool with 8" riprap to reduce the velocity and viscosity of discharge and the addition of a flared end section to the 48" culvert as well as a preformed scour hole to provide erosion protection.

A 38" and a 24" culvert each carry flow - typically low - from local streets. The discharge areas of both have been scoured out from velocities during high flow discharges and sediment has been displaced downstream from the culverts' outflow areas. Pawlak observed no significant sediment events at the footbridge area but did, however, note sediment on the banks of the watercourse channel and cloudy water entering the lake. It was unclear whether the sediment originated upstream or from the scoured bowl itself. As such, the large sediment basin at the footbridge was eliminated from the plan to minimize the disturbance to the satisfactorily functioning wetlands.

Excavated material will be removed, using a small excavator at access points beyond the regulated area. Material will be relocated on the property and likely integrated as a landscaped feature of the golf course. Pawlak recommended planting 12 shrubs to expand the diversity of vegetation in the area. The proposal calls for the preformed scour holes and rip rap area to be inspected and cleaned approximately every two years. Any accumulated sediment will be removed and relocated onsite beyond the regulated area.

Pending approval, the project would be constructed during winter 2018 when the ground is frozen.

Adjournment motioned by Newton; seconded by Scott