



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 11, 2021 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Ken Braga, Steve Hoffman and Katherine Heminway; Present via ZOOM meeting: Vice Chairman Ron Brown, Art Aube, and Alternate Francis Hann

ABSENT: Hocine Baouche and Jean Burns

STAFF

PRESENT: John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer; Present via ZOOM meeting: Barbra Galovich, Land Use Assistant/Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ken Braga called the Ellington Inland Wetlands Agency meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): None

III. OLD BUSINESS: None

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hastillo Properties, LLC owner/ TYMAC Holdings, LLC, applicant, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 8-26(e), request for positive referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission on an 11-lot subdivision application (S202004) involving land regulated as an inland wetland or watercourse at property located on Tripp Road, APN 023-001-0000.

Mark Peterson, Gardner & Peterson Associates, LLC, 178 Hartford Turnpike, Tolland, CT was present to represent the request.

Mr. Peterson stated his client is looking for a positive referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Peterson explained they redesigned the resubdivision, which has been reduced to eleven lots. He stated that within the 100' upland review area, they are proposing seeding down grade from the proposed stormwater basin, but no earth activity.

Chairman Braga noted that the proposed project will not have any activity within 100' of the delineated wetlands. Commissioner Hoffman asked if the project was redesigned to be any closer to the wetlands. Mr. Peterson said that overall the project is further away.

MOVED (HOFFMAN) SECONDED (HEMINWAY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GRANT A POSITIVE REFERRAL TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION - Hastillo Properties, LLC owner/ TYMAC Holdings, LLC, applicant, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 8-26(e), request for positive referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission on an 11-lot subdivision application (S202004) involving land regulated as an inland wetland or watercourse at property located on Tripp Road, APN 023-001-0000.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. IW202001 – Skinner Properties LLC and 83 North Properties LLC, owners/applicants, request for a modification to a permit to conduct regulated activity for the maintenance and restoration of Belding Brook at 120 West Road, APN 037-002-0000 and 124 West Road, APN 037-003-0000.

Time: 7:08 PM

Seated: Braga, Brown, Hoffman, Heminway, and Aube

Guy Hesketh, F.A. Hesketh and Associates, Inc., 6 Creamery Brook, East Granby, CT and George Logan, Rema Ecological Services, LLC, 164 East Center Street, Suite 8, Manchester, CT were present to represent the application.

Chairman Braga noted the Planning Department was in receipt of an email from the Town Engineer, dated January 5, 2021, stating he has no objection to the modification being proposed.

Mr. Hesketh said they were in front of the Agency back in February of 2020 and received a wetlands permit for the overall project on the site. Since then, heavy rain storms have continued to erode portions of Belding Brook where the applicants intend to install a covered bridge to provide access between their properties. Mr. Hesketh said they are requesting a modification to their permit to maintain and restore the severely eroding banks of the brook. He added that Mr. Logan recently flagged the wetlands in this area and they are delineated on the plan.

Mr. Hesketh briefly explained pictures from the Rema Ecological Services, LLC report showing how the brook has eroded over the past several months. He said they are proposing to straighten and widen the brook's channel, including constructing a stilling pool lined with rip-rap at the outfall of the twin pipes coming from under West Road to dissipate flow forces. The stilling pool will create in-stream habitats along with the placement of large cobbles and boulders. The brook's new channel will be lined with bank run gravel and a variety of stone sizes. To stabilize the banks they plan to add sediment logs and grade the channel banks to a 3:1 slope, and plant willows, dogwoods and a conservation seed mix. Mr. Hesketh stated the applicants are planning to complete this project sometime in February, when there is no precipitation in the weather forecast and their contractor believes it will take approximately 3 to 5 days to complete.

Vice Chairman Brown asked if widening the brook in this area would affect the environment of the brook downstream. Mr. Hesketh stated they would not be doing any activity downstream. Mr. Logan explained the work they are proposing should help the downstream area be more stable as the water velocity is slowed during large rainfall events. He added that they will have a low flow channel through the restored portion of the brook to allow for continual flow.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if the restoration plan would impede any of the wildlife that chooses to migrate upstream. Mr. Hesketh stated this should not happen based on the plans and grading. He added that they will make grade adjustments on-site if necessary to allow for in-stream wildlife to move upstream.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if the eroded soil had traveled downstream. Mr. Logan said they had not checked downstream but could look along the applicant's property to see if it had created a problem.

Chairman Braga asked Agency members to make a motion to determine whether or not the proposed activity is significant.

MOVED (HOFFMAN) SECONDED (HEMINWAY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO MAKE A DETERMINATION OF A SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY FOR IW202001.

No one from the public commented on the application.

MOVED (AUBE) SECONDED (HEMINWAY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR IW202001.

MOVED (HOFFMAN) SECONDED (AUBE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS IW202001 – Skinner Properties LLC and 83 North Properties LLC, owners/applicants, request for a modification to a permit to conduct regulated activity for the maintenance and restoration of Belding Brook at 120 West Road, APN 037-002-0000 and 124 West Road, APN 037-003-0000.

FINDING THAT A FEASIBLE AND PRUDENT ALTERNATIVE DOES NOT EXIST. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT TO THE BROOK WILL BE LESSENER BY THE USE OF EROSION MITIGATION MEASURERS, AS WELL AS WATERCOURSE AND RIPARIAN ENHANCEMENTS AS SUBMITTED IN THE APPLICATION AND CONDITIONED AS FOLLOWS:

Conditions:

- 1) Permit modification approval based on the Erosion Mitigation Plan prepared by F. A. Hesketh & Associates, Inc. dated December 11, 2020, revised December 14, 2020 and Rema Ecological Services LLC report dated December 11, 2020.
- 2) Stipulations of February 10, 2020 Wetlands Permit approval still apply.
- 3) Outfall area of twin CMPs under West Road to be constructed to allow in-stream wildlife to move upstream.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (HEMINWAY) SECONDED (AUBE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 14, 2020 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

2. Election of Officers:

- a. Chairman Position

MOVED (AUBE) TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER (BRAGA) FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY FOR 2021.

COMMISSIONER (BRAGA) ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION. HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

MOVED (HEMINWAY), SECONDED (HOFFMAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT COMMISSIONER (BRAGA) FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY FOR 2021.

- b. Vice Chairman Position

MOVED (BRAGA) TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER (BROWN) FOR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY FOR 2021.

COMMISSIONER (BROWN) ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION. HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

MOVED (BRAGA), SECONDED (HOFFMAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT COMMISSIONER (BROWN) FOR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY FOR 2021.

3. Correspondence/Discussion: None

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (AUBE) SECONDED (HEMINWAY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 11, 2021 REGULAR MEETING OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY AT 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbra Galovich, Recording Clerk