

**INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
LAND USE OFFICE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Randy Dill called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Grange.

2. ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mary Augustiny, Jennifer Burton-Reeve, Randy Dill, Bryan Goff, Daniel Jahne

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 2 vacancies

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Ventres, Todd Gelston (Conservation Commission representative) and 4 townspeople were present.

3. MINUTES:

Motion by Ms. Augustiny to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2015 regular meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Goff, and carried by unanimous vote.

4. BILLS:

Branse & Willis	\$74.00
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There was some discussion about whether this had been paid last month. It was decided that the commission could approve it for payment if it was still outstanding.

Motion by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve to pay this bill, if it has not already been paid. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Ventres noted that Field Inspections were not listed on the agenda, but there have been no recent field inspections due to the weather.

5. WETLANDS PERMIT REVIEW

A) Continued: Robert Hoops, 13 Wildwood, Bashan Lake, increase length of dock. Assessor's Map 49, Lot 9.

First date: January 20, 2015

Last date: April 30, 2015

No one representing the applicant was present at this meeting. Mr. Ventres explained that there has already been one extension for this application. Unfortunately, due to the weather, the commission has not been able to walk this site for the past two months. Therefore, the commission is unable to act on this application. Since they are at the end of the timeline, Mr. Ventres recommended the commission allow the applicant to re-apply and to waive the fees.

Motion by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve, and carried by unanimous vote to accept the reapplication of Robert Hoops, 13 Wildwood, Bashan Lake, increase length of dock, Assessor's Map 49, Lot 9, with a waiver of the fees.

B) Continued: Shawn & Kimberly Greenlaw, 58 Dogwood Road, 27' x 40' addition with activity in the upland review area. Assessor's Map 76, Lot 40.

First date: March 17, 2015

Last date: May 21, 2015

No one representing the applicant was present at this meeting. Mr. Ventres noted the commission would need to walk this site, but they still had time on this application.

Motion by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Jahne to continue the application of Shawn & Kimberly Greenlaw, 58 Dogwood Road, 27' x 40' addition with activity in the upland review area until the next regularly scheduled meeting, and to schedule a field walk. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

C) New: Donald R. & Sarah G. Donner, 121 Hopyard Road, 1 lot subdivision. Assessor's Map 23, Lot 1.

First date: April 21, 2015

Last date: June 25, 2015

No one representing the applicant was present at this meeting. Mr. Ventres presented the plan to the commission. The site has been flagged and test pits have been done.

Mr. Dill reviewed the map, and questioned the road names. Mr. Ventres stated this was a revised Mail-A-Map that was incorrect.

Mr. Ventres stated that Ms. Beno was on site once and planned to go back out next week. The commission discussed the warmth over the weekend and the effect on the wetlands.

Mr. Goff asked if they were developing the road. Mr. Ventres stated they would improve the road. Mr. Dill noted the applicants would have to deal with the town for the upgrades to driveway standards. Mr. Ventres hoped to have a report by the next meeting.

The commission discussed the abandoned road. Mr. Ventres discovered documentation from 1929, when it was noted that the town would "discontinue work at this time".

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue the application of Donald R. & Sarah G. Donner, 121 Hopyard Road, 1 lot subdivision until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Goff, and carried by unanimous vote.

6. SUBDIVISION REVIEW

A) New: Donald R. and Sarah G. Donner, 121 Hopyard Road, 1 lot subdivision. Assessor's Map 23, Lot 001.

First date: April 21, 2015

Last date: June 25, 2015

It was decided that the commission needed to take no action this evening, as the permit application was being continued to the next meeting.

The commission discussed their field walks. Ms. Burton-Reeve stated she is now working Monday evenings. The consensus was to conduct field walks two Wednesdays before each meeting, and that they would meet at 5:45 at the site(s). It was noted that May 6 would be the next field walk.

7. ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Ventres noted that there was an upcoming project for a bridge on the Pattrell property in the Eightmile River Watershed.

Mr. Ventres stated he had been looking at the disc golf course area. There is an existing pathway in Nichols Park. Some people are meeting there this weekend to walk the course. It looks like it will have one new wetlands crossing. This commission may need to conduct a field walk, but they need to have the conservation commission partner first.

Mr. Ventres reported on the status of the Shadybrook property, although it was not technically a wetlands issue. Mr. Ventres noted that the structures the applicant said he would use are within the regulations for agriculture. Mr. Ventres had tried to explain to the applicant that he needed to make contact with the proper authorities before startup. The applicant purchased 10,000 chicks. Many of the chickens have reportedly died. The Department of Agriculture began contacting Mr. Ventres about this site in October, 2014. The State ordered the applicant to provide heat for the birds. The Fire Marshal and Mr. Ventres inspected the buildings during to the time period when there was no building official and had instructed the applicant to hire a structural engineer before removing any walls in the main building. The commission discussed the site. Mr. Ventres and other state and local officials are meeting on-site tomorrow morning. The State cannot certify the birds to the levels other companies require at this time. Mr. Dill stated the interest for this commission at this point is the manure and the removal of any deceased chicks. He was concerned about the manure reaching the Moodus River.

In a separate issue, Mr. Ventres went to court today for the Milan Cais matter. The judge explained possible additional charges to Mr. Cais should Mr. Cais lose his appeal. It was noted this structure used to be a convalescent home. Before that, it was a power plant, which provided the first electricity to East Haddam.

Mr. Ventres is looking into solar arrays. He has had phone calls for a 6-acre solar array site. Mr. Ventres has contacted Attorney Branse's office to see if this would fall under Siting Council oversight. This would be enough to power 200 households. Mr. Dill explained that this type of program can sell power to local businesses and municipalities. Discussion ensued regarding solar power, cost effectiveness, life span of the solar panels, etc.

Ms. Burton-Reeve asked about activity on Shore Drive, Lake Hayward. Mr. Ventres reported that they had pulled out a mud/sand bag. Mr. Ventres received a call last week about raw sewage being dumped into Lake Hayward. Mr. Ventres went to the reported area to find that the CT Water Company was flushing their water lines.

Ms. Augustiny stated the power company was about to cross Orchard Road. She asked about the wetlands in that area. Mr. Goff noted that the power company was exempt. Mr. Ventres stated the roads the power company has have a very strong base.

8. Conservation Commission

Mr. Gelston reported they have a slight problem. They are trying to make trails, etc. The Eagle Scouts had decided to mark trails, make camp sites, etc. On the Hatch lot, they created a camp site, and some scouts are working on a kiosk for maps, etc. The Conservation Commission received approval and installed a foot bridge.

Another Eagle Scout wanted to lay out and install a foot bridge. Mr. Gelston stated the scout talked about a foot bridge, but never received approval to build or install it. The scout built and installed a large foot bridge, and not in a proper location.

Mr. Ventres stated the conservation commission's last meeting minutes did not reflect that the Eagle Scout was not to build a bridge. Mr. Ventres stated the unit is built, possibly overbuilt. The site is the existing logging trail, and it matches up with the existing logging trail. He believed this commission should go out and walk this site. Mr. Ventres downloaded models for building standardized bridges. Mr. Ventres stated the bridge is safe. Mr. Gelston stated the conservation commission volunteers rebuilt this bridge the next weekend. He stated the scouts came for conceptual approval only, and that conservation commission approved the concept. Mr. Gelston stated the conservation commission re-installed handrails on the bridge, as they want people of all ages to be able to use the bridge.

Mr. Gelston stated they would come back to this commission for approval for a new location. Mr. Dill stated this is a wetlands issue, and this commission should walk the site. However, it does not sound as though it is a safety concern at this point, but the commission does need to review and approve the correct location.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Pattavina