

MORRIS INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
COMMUNITY HALL
MORRIS, CT 06763

Received
Asst. Town Clerk
Susan J. DeLoe
SEP 12 2022
11:53 A.M.

September, 2022

The regular September 8, 2022 meeting was called to order by the chair at 4:15 pm downstairs in the Community Hall. Present were Doreen Gagnon, Robin Viola, and Mike Doyle; Connie Trolle was at a site meeting and called to say she would be late, Clif Wheeler had obligations at the Bethlehem Fair, and Giles Giovinazzi was unable to attend. Robin Viola was appointed to take Giles Giovinazzi's position. Also present was Dennis McMorro and First Selectman Tom Weik.

The minutes of the regular August 11, 2022 meeting were noted as having the wrong date (August 1 instead of August 11); the minutes were accepted as corrected.

Old Business

Application 22-24 from Monica Richmond to demolish an existing structure and construct a new house, well, drive, and pool at 274 Bantam Lake Road was considered with the submitted site plan dated 8-5-22 by Berkshire Engineering; Mr. McMorro had said he did not design a rain garden because the previously approved enhanced wetlands plan will serve the same function. On a motion by Robin Viola, seconded by Doreen Gagnon, it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve this application as shown on the plan conditioned on the construction of the previously approved enhanced wetlands that will function as a rain garden to accept the piped runoff.

Application 22-25 from Scott Swimming Pools as agent for Ken and Amy Hershman for a 16'x45' in-ground swimming pool and pool house at 312 Bantam lake Road was considered. A conceptual site design dated 4 Apr 22 by Hinkel Design Group that shows a new house does not include enough information to be included in this application. On a motion by Doreen Gagnon, seconded by Robin Viola, it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve this application for the swimming pool and pool house that should not impact the lake.

Application 22-26 from Darryl Maslak for building demolition of ten cottages and the remains of the house at 131 Bantam Lake Road was considered. On a motion by Robin Viola, seconded by Doreen Gagnon, it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve this application for a project that should not impact the lake.

New Business

Application 22-27 from the Town to pump down and dredge mud from fire ponds was considered. At present there are three fire ponds to be maintained: Straits Turnpike (work has begun); Esthers Lane and Route 61; Higbie Road and Route 109. The intent is for a permit to maintain fire ponds without needing a new application for each. A list of the fire ponds to be maintained will be sent to the Commission before the work is done to afford the members a chance to visit the sites. On a motion by Robin Viola, seconded by Doreen Gagnon, it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve this application for a public safety project that should not increase impact to wetlands.

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Application 22-28 from the Town to install a 1000 gallon buried tank at James Morris School was considered. A new generator has been purchased for this emergency gathering place, and will run on propane supplied by this tank. On a motion by Robin Viola, seconded by Doreen Gagnon, it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve this application for a public safety project that will not affect wetlands.

Other Business

On a motion by Doreen Gagnon, seconded by Robin Viola, it was **VOTED** unanimously to add to the agenda a request from the Morris Land Trust regarding the purchase of an easement.

A request has been received from Pucci McGill on behalf of the Morris Land Trust. They are applying to DEEP for a grant to help purchase an easement on the 37 acres of undeveloped land of the Humphrey-Sheehan property on Alain White Road. They ask us to consider an endorsement for this purchase. On a motion by Robin Viola, seconded by Doreen Gagnon, it was **VOTED** unanimously to endorse this project and to reply to the Land Trust with this letter:

*Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
State of Connecticut*

The Inland Wetlands Commission of the Town of Morris, Ct., endorses a 37-acre conservation easement for the Humphrey-Sheehan property and asks for DEEP's participation in the purchase of the easement.

This easement would preserve for agricultural and recreational use, in perpetuity, the property that was a portion of the 153-acre farm established in 1894 by the Humphrey family. It has been owned by the same family since that time. The property is picturesque, and in addition to haying fields, there are stone walls and acres of wetlands, including the headwaters of Whittlesey Creek, which bisects the property and flows into Bantam Lake. The rest of the parcel is wooded, and acts as a wildlife habitat corridor that connects White Memorial Conservation Center to open space farther south and east.

Morris is a largely unspoiled town. The Humphrey-Sheehan farmland and woodland property runs along a road that is a gateway to — and close to — the center of town. Development of the property would greatly harm and perhaps destroy the essential rural natural beauty of Morris. For Connecticut's goal of preserving open space, this would be a significant and irreparable loss.

A copy of their brochure on getting rid of invasive plants was received from Sharon Inland Wetlands. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,