

**MORRIS INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
COMMUNITY HALL
MORRIS, CT 06763**

September, 2023

The regular September 14, 2023 meeting was called to order by the chair at 4:00 pm downstairs in the Community Hall. Present were Connie Trolle, Doreen Gagnon, Robin Viola, Clif Wheeler, and Mike Doyle. Also present were Colin Pottbecker, Sean Quinlin, Bill Colby, John Maxwell, First Selectman Tom Weik, Kim Lundberg, and others.

The minutes of the regular August 10, 2023 meeting were accepted as written.

On a motion by Connie Trolle, seconded by Clif Wheeler, it was **VOTED** unanimously to add application 23-20 to the agenda after Item 4 under new business.

New Business

(This item was skipped at the beginning of the meeting and returned to later). A project by the Town for plantings at the Town Beach was reviewed with Kim Lundberg, who explained that the plantings are designed to keep geese off the beach. In addition the root structure will protect from erosion. It is proposed to plant three native species, with gates to allow people through. After review it was agreed that this planting does not require a permit.

Old Business

Application 23-16 from Kenneth Smoltz for a pickleball court, decks, retaining walls, drains, patios, at 187 East Shore Road was considered. This site has been visited. A revised site plan dated August 18, 2023 was submitted. Sean Quinlin explained that the drainage plan will connect the existing drainage to the proposed, and all runoff will be directed to the Cultec units, which have been sized for the increased volume. This will eliminate the runoff that had been directed to the lake. On a motion by Connie Trolle, seconded by Clif Wheeler, it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve this project that will have minimal impact to the lake and improve existing conditions.

Application 23-17 from John Maxwell for shore stabilization at 38A Brunetto Grove was discussed. Mr. Colby explained again that the shoreline will be stabilized with rip-rap sloping back from the existing grass line, with a rock filled trench at the base of the slope to support the rip-rap. The pipe carrying water will be extended beyond the rip-rap. On a motion by Connie Trolle, seconded by Doreen Gagnon, it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve this project to stabilize the bank.

Application 23-18 from Collin Sieracki as agent for Cyndi DeRosaire for a patio and artificial turf at 19 Palmer Road was considered. On a motion by Connie Trolle, seconded by Doreen Gagnon, it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve this project that will have minimal impact to the lake.

Application 23-19 from Carol Fletcher for an in-ground swimming pool at 76 Hickory Hill Road was considered. Noting that there are no wetlands indicated at the site, on a motion by Connie Trolle, seconded by Robin Viola, it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve this project

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Application 23-20 from Russell B. Hamlin to renovate an existing cabin and add a habitable addition plus new decks and a storage structure at 27 Mt. Tom State Park Road was considered. A computer plan dated revised August 21, 2023 was submitted, and a letter dated August 21, 2023 that explained that the addition and decks will not be done. A 10' x 16' storage shed will be placed on a stone base. The sheds that had been there have been removed. Any renovating of the existing cabin will be done in the future, and would not require a wetlands permit. On a motion by Connie Trolle, seconded by Clif Wheeler, it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve this project for a (replacement) storage shed.

Application 23-14 from Colin Pottbecker as agent for Dave Geremia for removal of a large rock by breaking it into smaller pieces in the water at 158 Island Trail was considered. Mr. Pottbecker submitted a copy of an *Activity Attachment: Rock Relocation* from the Maine Land Use Planning Commission. Maine would allow the relocation of rocks to allow a maximum ten-foot wide boat access to be provided to a property owner. The relocated rocks must remain “naturally” in the water and not be used for a jetty. It was noted that that in our case the proposal is not required for lake access as the property owner already has lake access. Mr. Pottbecker likened the proposal to adding a patio as an improvement to a property. As an “improvement” to the lake front it was noted that the property of the land owner does not extend into the lake. Members expressed that they were not comfortable with the wetlands commission giving approval, such approval would better come from DEEP. On a motion by Connie Trolle, seconded by Clif Wheeler, it was **VOTED** unanimously to DENY this application proposed for activity on property not included in his deed, and breaking a large rock into smaller pieces in the lake water is an unnecessary, permanent removal of lake structure.

Application 23-15 from Colin Pottbecker as agent for Bob Labonne to remove two large rocks from the water at 164 Island Trail was considered as Application 23-14 above. On a motion by Connie Trolle, seconded by Clif Wheeler, it was **VOTED** unanimously to DENY this application proposed for activity on property not included in his deed, breaking large rocks into smaller pieces in the lake water is an unnecessary, permanent removal of lake structure.

Permit 22-09 for work at 34 Woodward Road was discussed. After a chance encounter with the property owner by Mike Doyle where our concerns were expressed regarding the level spreaders, the contractor and general contractor asked for a visit at the site. At that time it was noted that both level spreaders had been addressed and the weeds removed. The upper level spreader had rocks added where it had washed out. The level spreaders have aluminum strips several feet long embedded in the ground with two inches visible. The site plans call for berms not more than 6 inches high, but no berms were built. At that time the engineer said that the spreaders as built were fine. He added that only 1” of rain runoff needed to be addressed. The man doing mowing at the site will monitor the level spreaders. Clif Wheeler visited the site after the very heavy rain on Tuesday, and reported that the brook has risen to the bridge, and the driveway is washing out with deep ruts. The drainage along the east side of the lower drive does not receive any of the runoff from the road. The lower catch basin is still covered, so lever riser does not receive runoff from the pipe. Water was pouring over the upper level riser and is so

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close to a natural berm at the edge of the brook that the runoff is directed to the brook in only one area that was reinforced with rip-rap added after the first washout of the level riser. It was agreed that since we are getting no response from the people at the site that a letter should be sent to the owner.

Also at 34 Woodward Road, the concerns at the pool house were addressed in an email dated Sep 8, 2023, the builder said that the three pipes at the splash pad are (2) for roof runoff and the center one from the curtain drains. It has not been decided if the gutter leaders will be connected, or perhaps french drains. The splash pad may need to be enlarged.

Other Business

It has been agreed that it is desirable to require the emergency house numbers on docks for water safety. Warren has the following verbiage: "For safety purposes, the street number, using numerals at least 3 inches high, shall be affixed to the end of the dock or float as to be visible from the lake." Other towns require a permit for docks, perhaps a dock registration would work for us. Connie Trolle will prepare the proposed wording to the next meeting for review before beginning the hearing process.

An email dated September 1, 2023 was received from Steven Byrne in regards to the violation at 245 Thomaston Road. Mr. Byrne listed three things needed: 1) the wetlands flagged; 2) when the violation occurred (not pre-wetlands adoption); and 3) who committed the violation. Clif Wheeler will see if he can get information on 2 and 3.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,