

LITCHFIELD INLAND WETLAND COMMISSION
Regular March 11, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Rd., Bantam, CT

Call to Order: Chairman Robert Blazek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Robert Blazek, Anthony Paradise, Abby Conroy, Barbara Brower, Jack Healy. Also present were Dennis Tobin, Ph.D, Wetlands Agent, and Ann Combs, Recording Secretary

Members Absent: Frederick Minck, Jack Hamill, Brooke Healy

Public Comment: Anne Haas, Bantam P&Z, EDC and Town Facilities Review Committee, was present as a taxpayer and concerned citizen. She was concerned that there is no blight ordinance in Litchfield, and she would rather have the Town be proactive rather than reactive. She said she sent correspondence.

John Post was denied comment, as it related to a topic on the agenda.

Appointment of Alternates: None available

Motion: A. Conroy moved to add as 16a) Litchfield Housing Authority – 130 Doyle Road, permit extension. B. Brower seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

APPLICATION CONSIDERATIONS

1. Village Green Drive – 6645 Federal Square Realty **3/11/20**
Permit modification to amend June 1, 2015 approval regarding Paragraph 16

There was no one present for this application, so commissioners agreed to move this item to the next meeting on April 8, 2020.

2. Shay – 1499 Bantam Road **3/11/20**
Construct 10' X 16' shed on blocks

Steven Shay explained the storage shed on blocks to store boats, docks and outdoor furniture. The DOT sent an email that he read saying they have no concerns with the work and their easement. There will be no hazardous materials stored. R. Blazek was concerned about sheet flow off the roof being too close to the pond. Steven felt Kyle would give permission to move the shed either left or right. She submitted a landscape plan with native plants and perennials along the slope. J. Healy was happy with the layout. A. Conroy thought the concentration off the roof would be minimal. A. Paradise asked about the height of the shed and he was shown a spec. shed with height of 8-10 ft.

Motion: J. Healy moved to approve the application of Kyle Shay, to be located on property at 1499 Bantam Road, M40/B89/L30, for a shed as shown on a sketch provided by Kyle Shay and received 3/9/20, and the shed as shown on a Home Depot brochure, barn style shed, and per plantings as indicated on the drawing.

Second: A. Paradise

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.

3. SRC Motorsports, LLC (Patterson Oil) – 827 Bantam Road **3/11/20**
Repave driveway, relocate fence and repair retaining wall

David Wilson, Registered Engineer, was present representing the client. He disclosed he is the Chairman of the Litchfield WPCA and a member of the Recycling Committee. He noted he changed the application to read "remove the fence". There are no changes to the existing building, and the use will be for motor vehicle repair. It is the right of the owners to sell fuel in the future if they so decide. He passed out a material handling guidance sheet. A spill kit would be on site. They have a service, Safety-Kleen, to take away waste materials. The sheet also included emergency contact and self-audit form. There are no changes to any drainage on site. There is a catch basin in front. They will repave the torn up driveway with asphalt. A letter of concern was received by Anne Haas.

Motion: A. Paradise moved to approve the application of SRC Motorsports, LLC (Patterson Oil), 827 Bantam Road, M167/B73/L2, to repave the driveway, remove the fence, and repair the retaining wall per map by Roy B. Cheney LLC, Site Plan, dated 1/2020.

Second: B. Brower

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.

4. Strub – 73 Sheldon Lane

3/11/20

Addition over existing courtyard, drainage improvements behind house and bottom of existing driveway

Jim Strub was present and showed a map with proposed 2-story addition and drainage improvements with catch basin and piping on his property. Raz Alexe looked at the drainage problem on the map, and asked if the catch basin would be deep enough so water would not flow into the road. After explanation the Commissioners were satisfied.

Motion: B. Brower moved to approve the application of James and Jill Strub, 73 Sheldon Lane, for an addition over the existing courtyard, drainage improvements behind the house and bottom of the existing driveway, as shown on map entitled James & Jill Strub, Site Plan/Grading Plan/Erosion Control Plan dated 1/2/20.

Second: A. Conroy

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.

APPLICATION RECEPTIONS

5. Gakidis – 14 Luzi Drive

3/11/20

Construct new commercial building and parking lot with associated utilities

Dennis McMorro, Berkshire Engineering and Surveying, was present to explain that Thanasi Gakidis is the owner of Bantam Pizza and would like to build a new commercial building adjacent to Luzi Road. It will be a 3280 sq. ft. building. The wetlands were flagged by Eric Davison of Davison Environmental, and there is an unnamed stream under Bantam Road. The property is a level 1.3 acres. Roof water drainage flows into a water quality basin, then to the brook. Erosion and sediment control plan is included. They will have 43 parking spaces as required. The house will stay on the property. There will be a wetland assessment proposal at the next meeting by Eric Davison. A. Paradise asked about changes around the T, and D. McMorro said this is a brand new topographic survey. He also said he will ask David Luzi for permission to walk the property.

6. Heller – Buell Road South – (Map 53, Block 15, Lot 09A)

3/11/20

Construct portion of house, driveway, barn and riding area in upland review area

Dennis McMorro, representing Heller, said this is in the Northfield section, at the corner of Richards Rd. and Buell Road South. Timber had previously been cut, and there is an existing shed. It is a very ledgey property with no intermittent streams. George Malia flagged the wetlands. The house will be built up high

so he will be able to have a gravity system into the septic, which will be outside the regulated area. They will also have a barn. There is no direct wetland impact. Mr. McMorrow will get permission to walk the property.

7. Town of Litchfield – Old Smith Road

3/11/20

Reconstruct road, drainage and pave existing road

Raz Alexe, Public Works Director, said this is a town line road, with Thomaston paying 30% of the project on the design to rebuild the road. The map shows pockets of wetland streams highlighted along the road. It is 2800 ft. long with a very steep (18% slope) gravel road. Dennis McMorrow explained the problems with the road. This reconstruction and paving will save the Town a lot of money and is a safety issue.

Motion: B. Brower moved to approve the application of Town of Litchfield to reconstruct Old Smith Road, do drainage and pave, with no direct wetlands impact, per map entitled Road Reconstruction Plans prepared for Town of Litchfield, Old Smith Road, dated 3/4/20.

Second: J. Healy

Vote: All voted aye except A. Conroy, who abstained, and the motion carried.

8. Town of Litchfield – Camp Dutton Road

3/11/20

Replacement of culvert over brook

Raz Alexe said it's a needed project because the area is flooded 50% of the time and washes out three properties. There is old concrete pipe from the hill into the creek. They will use corrugated steel pipe that should prevent 90% of the flooding. They are down to \$123,000 to build with help from the State. This is also a safety issue.

Motion: A. Paradise moved to approve the replacement of the culvert on Camp Dutton Road over unnamed brook, per Cardinal Engineering map dated 2/2020.

Second: J. Healy

Vote: All voted aye except A. Conroy, who abstained, and the motion carried.

9. Town of Litchfield – Headquarters Road

3/11/20

Replacement of culvert over brook

Raz Alexe proposes a dual culvert system of corrugated aluminum. This will also try to keep beavers away with a cage system.

Motion: A. Paradise moved to approve Town of Litchfield's application regarding Cardinal Engineering's map entitled, "Town of Litchfield Plan for the Replacement of Bridge No. 073-003, Headquarters Road over Unnamed Tributary of the Marshepaug River.

Second: B. Brower

Vote: All voted aye except A. Conroy, who abstained, and the motion carried.

10. Town of Litchfield – Milton Road

3/11/20

Repair of culvert over Butternut Brook

Raz Alexe said this is a repair they caught in time. They need to patch concrete and culvert and relocate one drainage pipe on the upstream. This cosmetic job should last another 50 years, and they are doing it in house. R. Blazek noted that this is also a safety issue.

Motion: B. Brower moved to approve the application of the Town of Litchfield for rehabilitation of the Milton Road culvert over Butternut Brook, Bridge No. 073-006, dated 2/2020.

Second: J. Healy

Vote: All voted aye except A. Conroy, who abstained, and the motion carried.

11. Town of Litchfield – Sawmill Road (Bridge 05183 over Marshhepaug River)

3/11/20

Installation of new guard rail, removal of nuisance vegetation, remove and repave road surface, and embankment fortification

Raz Alexe said this is one of the four bridges in the Federal Bridge Preservation Program, funded by the Feds 80%. They will build this next year, taking care not to alter the historic stones. They will use one designer and one contractor for all four bridges. Mr. Blazek noted this project is a safety issue.

Motion: J. Healy moved to approve the application of Town of Litchfield for Preservation Bridge Project No. 05183 over the Marshhepaug River per Environmental Permit Plans for Preservation Bridges Nos. 05181, 05182, 05183, and 06167 dated 1/28/20.

Second: B. Brower

Vote: All voted aye except A. Conroy, who abstained, and the motion carried.

12. Town of Litchfield – Duck Pond Road (Bridge 06167 over Butternut Brook)

3/11/20

Remove gravel wearing surface and place new timber bridge rail and guide rail, remove nuisance vegetation, re-point stone masonry wing walls

Raz said this is a tricky one but they will asphalt but put a layer that will look like dirt. It will have the same footprint. They have permission to work in the DOT easement. R. Blazek said this is another safety issue and work to preserve another historic bridge.

Motion: A. Paradise moved to approve Bridge #06167 Duck Pond Rd. over Butternut Brook, per Preservation Bridges Nos. 05181, 05182, 05183, and 06167.

Second: J. Healy

Vote: All voted aye except A. Conroy, who abstained, and the motion carried.

13. Town of Litchfield – Wheeler Road (Bridge 05182 over Spruce Brook)

3/11/20

Installation of new guard rail, removal of nuisance vegetation, remove and repave road surface, embankment fortification, drainage improvement

Raz Alexe said Wheeler Road will remain open during the work. They will do one lane at a time. It will be an overlay on part of the road. He explained the work that will take place on the bridge.

Motion: A. Paradise moved to approve Bridge #05182 Wheeler Road over Spruce Brook, for installation of new guard rail, removal of nuisance vegetation, remove and repave road surface, embankment fortification, and drainage improvement as part of the Preservation Bridges project. R. Blazek noted this is a safety issue.

Second: B. Brower

Vote: All voted aye except A. Conroy, who abstained, and the motion carried.

14. Town of Litchfield – East Litchfield Rd. (Bridge 05181 over Spruce Brook)

3/11/20

Installation of new guard rail, removal of nuisance vegetation, remove and repave road surface, embankment fortification, drainage improvement

Raz Alexe said there is a big drop on the north side, and the challenge is having a detour for the fire department, as the bridge abuts their property. The Litchfield Fire Dept. will secure apparatus on the other side of the bridge.

Motion: J. Healy moved to approve the application by Town of Litchfield for Bridge #05181, East Litchfield Road over Spruce Brook, based on drawings by GM2 dated 1/28/20, State Project No. 073-192 Preservation of Bridge No. 05181. R. Blazek note this as a safety issue.

Second: B. Brower

Vote: All voted aye except A. Conroy, who abstained, and the motion carried.

15. AEC Solar LLC (Litchfield High School) – 14 Plumb Hill Road

3/11/20

Installation of ground mounted solar array

Kenneth Hrica, PE and Licensed Land Surveyor, said he prepared the site plan. Panels will be on north side of LHS across from True Value and Bohemian Pizza. The Moulthrop Brook lies behind the project on the west side. The overall area is 1.1 acres. Pat Lewis was present from AEC Solar. A drain will travel under the old high school access to the wetland area on Constitution Way. R. Blazek said there should be a public hearing with date of 4/8/20.

Motion: J. Healy moved to set a public hearing for this application on 4/8/20 on the basis of public interest and possible significant impact on nearby wetlands.

Second: A. Conroy

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.

A. Paradise asked about a battery backup as related to AC or DC systems. Electricity goes through conduits and wire in a trench underground back to the building. Stormwater will have level spreaders that have a pipe to transmit water to two rain gardens. They will have silt fence to catch runoff during work. Staging area is on the asphalt area. Art Helmus of Smart Roofs Solar asked about equipment, which is skid steers and bobcats. It was agreed that the public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 8, 2020.

Motion: A. Conroy moved to set a public hearing for 4/8/20 at 7:00 p.m.

Second: A. Paradise

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.

16. AEC Solar LLC (Litchfield Intermediate School) – 35 Plumb Hill Road

3/11/20

Installation of carport array

Ken Hrica said panels will be sloping to the west, with runoff going into same system existing now. They will serve as canopies over the parking lot. This activity is not in the regulated area for Moulthrop Brook. J. Healy directed them to a previous application where the wetlands were delineated on the plans.

Motion: A. Conroy moved to set a public hearing on this application on 4/8/20 at 7:00 p.m., as it is in the best interest of the public to do so.

Second: A. Paradise

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried. Ken Hrica will determine the distance to the brook and pond.

16A. Litchfield Housing Authority - 130 Doyle Road

3/11/20

Permit extension

This permit extension is to replace wetlands permit No. CC00001176 to replace small portion of driveway, sidewalk, and site lighting in the wetlands regulated area. Ken Hrica represented Jim Simoncelli from the Housing Authority. Back in 2015 they had approved the driveway repair and sidewalk work. They would like to replace the sidewalk in back to complete the project, making it 5 ft. wide. This portion was not done due to lack of funds, so they would like to complete it now. It is a simple job in a level area with minimal land disturbance.

Motion: J. Healy moved to approve the application of the Litchfield Housing Authority, 130 Doyle Road, to replace the sidewalk on the east side of the complex per Map 167/72/93E submitted by Jim Simoncelli, Executive Director, on application submitted 3/9/20.

Second: B. Brower

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.

17. Annual Meeting – Election of Officers and Review of Bylaws: postponed

18. Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2020

Motion: B. Brower moved to approve the meeting minutes of 2/12/20.

Second: A. Paradise

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.

19. Correspondence

- Anne Haas re SRC Motorsports application
- CCT Pond Services – Floren Pond treatment

20. Old Business: none

21. New Business: none

22. Possible Executive Session: none

23. Adjournment

Motion: B. Brower moved to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

Second: J. Healy

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.



Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary