

LITCHFIELD INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
June 14, 2023 ~ 7:00 p.m.
In Person at Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road, Bantam

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

Members Present: Robert Blazek, Martin Connor, Jack Hamill, Mike LoRusso, and Susan Clarkin. Also present were Spencer Musselman, Wetlands Agent, and Ann Combs, Recording Secretary.

Members Absent: William Dooley, Jack Healy

Appointment of Alternates: None

Motion: M. Connor moved and S. Clarkin seconded a motion to add to the agenda as 11a "Litchfield Land Trust – 28 Russell Street, to clean out drainage swale and remove invasive plants. All voted aye and the motion carried.

APPLICATION CONSIDERATIONS

1. Forman School – 12 Norfolk Road

6/1423

Remove wood stairs and replace with granite steps. Remove existing retaining walls and install precast block retaining walls. Current retaining walls are bulging and stairs are unsafe (0.25 acres)

Peter Maltby, Forman CFO and AJ Towne from Towne & Aurell were present to explain the stair replacement and show photos. They will take out the timber stairs and replace with granite stairs. The retaining wall on the side is bulging, so they will replace the timbers with a block retaining wall. AJ Towne will include an erosion plan. Commissioners were satisfied and had no questions.

Motion: M. LoRusso moved to approve the application of Forman School, 12 Norfolk Road, to remove wood stairs and replace with granite steps; remove existing retaining walls and install precast block retaining walls. Current retaining walls are bulging and stairs are unsafe (0.25 acres). M. Connor seconded, all voted aye and the motion passed.

2. Strumpf – 318 Richards Road Ext.

6/14/23

Proposed new house construction with updated septic system, well, grading, driveway and detached garage (0.40 acres)

Gary Giordano, Professional Engineer and Licensed Land Surveyor, represented the owner, Drew Strumpf. The house is on about 6 acres. There are zero wetland areas affected by this plan. The upland review area affected is 0.40 acres. The well is in the regulated area, and they will restore the area behind the well to lawn. The primary septic is located in the front yard, with potential reserve area in the back with pump. The closest wetland is about 75' from the building. M. Connor said this is a tough site with little alternative, so what is shown looks appropriate. Other commissioners were fine with the plan.

Motion: M. Connor moved to approve the application of Drew T. Strumpf, 318 Richards Road Ext., for proposed new house construction with updated septic system, well, grading, driveway and detached garage based on plans drawn by Gary Giordano entitled "Drew T. Strumpf, Subsurface Sewage Disposal System." S. Clarkin seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

APPLICATION RECEPTIONS

3. Civil 1 – 23 Norfolk Road

6/14/23

900 sq. ft. of wetlands regulated-area disturbance in front yard for installation of new septic system and grading. +/- 100 sq. ft. of wetlands regulated-area disturbance in rear yard for abandonment of old septic tank and minor grading (0.02 acres)

Sean Quinlan, Civil 1, said this septic system is in the back yard and is failing. The new system is proposed for the front yard with no direct wetland impact. The closest part of the system to the wetlands is 40' away. The area where the tank is removed will be filled and seeded. They are connected to public water. The plan has been approved by Torrington Area Health District. M. Connor said the plan is complete with proper erosion controls. He suggested making this an agent determination to move on it more quickly.

Motion: M. Connor moved and J. Hamill seconded a motion to direct Spencer Musselman to do an agent determination. All voted aye and the motion carried.

4. Matuszewski – 1062 Bantam Road

6/14/23

After the fact. Clean up existing debris from cleared area. Plant grass for stabilization. Installation of sculptures in review area (0.1 acres)

The applicant was absent, so this will be tabled to the next meeting on July 12th.

5. Nuredin – 548 South Plains Road

6/14/23

After the fact. Clear some bushes and remove trees to clean up the property (0.1 acres)

Mr. Nuredin said he was cleaning up the yard which revealed the pond behind. S. Musselman said he cleared out invasive plants and recommends he contact Northwest Conservation District to choose plantings. He found an old rusted barrel and was instructed to get rid of it. He showed photos that he will email to S. Musselman tomorrow.

6. Osowiecki – Donahue Road Ext., MBL # 081/084/01D

6/14/23

After the fact. Grading and deposition of fill material within regulated area (0.1 acres)

James Osowiecki said they got a big stockpile of blasted ledge to be used in building a new house for his daughter and some barns. He's putting virgin ledge in there to build the driveway. The pond is 166 ft. away, and there is a stream on the west side. M. Connor warned about piling soils in case they need the area for septic. He also suggested having the soil scientist flag the wetlands near where the house will be built. Mr. Osowiecki said his brother had all the wetlands marked. S. Musselman was concerned about fills washing into the stream on the west side, so he will meet with Mr. Osowiecki.

REQUESTS

7. Litchfield Development Properties – 626R Torrington Road

Bond release request

Mark D'Addabbo is asking for the \$25,000 landscaping bond back, as everything has been cleaned up and functioning well. S. Musselman is satisfied and will confirm the amount of the bond. **Motion:** J. Hamill moved to release the bond for Litchfield Development Properties at 626R Torrington Road, and M. LoRusso seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

8. Litchfield Housing Trust (Gagarin Place)

Bond release request

S. Musselman said they have asked for the bond back, but they understand it is still about a month out because there are still some erosion problems that they plan to fix next week. All the plantings are in and all should be functioning next week. They will re-topsoil and re-seed for the fifth time. M. Connor will accompany S. Musselman on the inspection next week. The Housing Trust will be here next month.

9. Vallecilla – 12 Old Forge Hollow Road

Request to extend permit to subdivide property to 2029

No one was present. M. Connor said the same conditions exist as granted before, so there is no reason not to grant an extension.

Motion: M. Connor moved to grant the request for permit extension to 10/11/2029 for Pablo Vallecilla, 12 Old Forge Hollow Road, with the same conditions as in the original application and permit. S. Clarkin seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

AGENT DETERMINATIONS

10. Orioles – 107 North Shore Road

6/14/23

Construction of 5' x 8' deck off of rear exit (north side) and construction of 5' x 15' deck addition to existing deck with handicap access ramp (west side)

No one was present, but Spencer Musselman said that he did an agent determination. The applicant is currently in ZBA.

11. Larsen – 35 Van Winkle Road

6/14/23

Extension of deck, extension is 144 sq. ft.

S. Musselman did an agent determination. Mr. Larsen will extend his deck by 6' x 12'. He is still in ZBA now, but will be back in July. He is 150' from the lake shore and took down a gazebo that was on the shore.

11a. Litchfield Land Trust – 28 Russell Street

6/14/23

Clean out drainage swales, remove invasive plants

Spencer Musselman said there is an old swale that has filled with sediment that will be cleaned out so it is restored to its original condition. He is comfortable with it. M. Connor has walked it and agrees.

12. Violations: S. Musselman said there was an application approved last fall on South Street, and he thinks they have gone into a neighboring property at 311 South Street and piled brush on the wrong side of the property line. He had no contact number, so he is sending a violation letter to get in contact with them. The Bantam River is very near.

13. Construction Permits

Litchfield Housing Trust (Gagarin Place) – Torrington Road (CC#00001197)

Erosion controls will be fixed by next week, then the bond can be released.

14. Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2023

Motion: J. Hamill moved and S. Clarkin seconded a motion to approve the 5/10/23 meeting minutes as presented. All voted aye and the motion carried.

15. Correspondence

- Notice from the Town Clerk that S. Clarkin took the oath of office on 5/17/23 and can now be a voting member
- Notification of pond treatments at Litchfield Ponds, Hidden Pond, Oneglia, Schnitzer, Schildgen and Tapping Reeve Village Pond by Lisa Mariakakis of The Pond and Lake Connection

16. Adjournment: Motion: M. LoRusso moved to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. and J. Hamill seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary