

LITCHFIELD INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
September 13, 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 7:03 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Mike LoRusso, Jack Healy, William Dooley

Appointment of Alternates: None

APPLICATION CONSIDERATIONS

1. Moore – 39 Camp Dutton Road

9/13/23

Dredge small farm pond, restoration of an earthen dam, construction of a grass farm road, construction of two culverts, and construction of a riprap-lined channel

David Batista of Haley Ward, and Tom Moore, owner, were present. Mr. Batista reviewed the application with wetland activity of 12,300 sq. ft. direct disturbance. Almost everything in the application is regulated. The overview plan shows construction access. They plan to dredge the small farm pond and replace the earthen dam. DEEP has ceded its jurisdiction to the local Inland Wetlands Commission. There are two gullies that lead from the project area to the Bantam River. There is also a seasonal runoff that makes its way to the north gully. They plan to direct all discharge through an outlet pipe to the south gully with a heavy riprap swale down to the river. Several trees will be taken down at the dam, with careful consideration in removing the roots. The dam design will comply with the hundred-year flood plus one foot. This application includes a comprehensive construction and soil erosion and sedimentation control plan. The ideal construction time will be in the summer and will be nine weeks in duration. S. Musselman said he had walked it and thought it was a good plan.

Motion: M. Connor moved to approve the application of Thomas Moore, 39 Camp Dutton Road, to dredge a small farm pond, restore an earthen dam, construct a grass farm road, construct two culverts, and construct a riprap-lined channel per drawings submitted by Haley Ward dated 6/9/23, and plans dated 6/21/23. **Second:** S. Clarkin

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.

2. Litchfield Land INC - 432 Bantam Road

9/13/23

Construction of pool drain in the upland review area. Minor grading in regulated area. Construction of pool house, pool area, and patio in upland (0.04 acres)

M. Connor said this is very straight forward and he is comfortable approving it. J. Hamill and S. Musselman agreed.

Motion: J. Hamill moved to approve the application of Litchfield Land INC, 432 Bantam Road, for construction of a pool drain in the upland review area with minor grading in the regulated area. It also includes construction of a pool house, pool area, and patio in the upland review area (0.04 acres), and is in accordance with a 6/2/23 plan by Hrica Associates.

Second: M. Connor

Vote: All voted aye and the motion passed.

3. Wilson – 11 Headquarters Road

9/13/23

Dismantle and reconstruct existing building with foundation and crawl space; add 13' x 18' addition to west side of building with crawl space and foundation

S. Musselman said Mr. Wilson was notified but is not present. He and M. Connor visited the site and said all precautions have been taken and they are comfortable with an approval. J. Hamill agreed.

Motion: S. Clarkin moved to approve the application of Wilson (Karen Nystrom), 11 Headquarters Road, to dismantle and reconstruct the existing building with foundation and crawl space and to add a 13' x 18' addition to the west side of the building with crawl space and foundation.

Second: M. Connor

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.

APPLICATION RECEPTIONS

4. Matuszewski – 1062 Bantam Road

9/13/23

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

Mr. Matuszewski said he did not understand the wetlands regulations and spoke with S. Musselman about it. He had cleared some area to display his sculptures, but he would like additional pathways where he can place the sculptures. R. Blazek suggested he speak with Raz Alexe at Public Works about runoff that comes from the corner of Cathole Road into his property. S. Musselman insisted on no further intrusion into the wetlands and no more sculptures than are there now. This is an enforcement action for an after-the-fact. Any further plans for a path must have a plan and application for a permit.

Motion: J. Hamill moved to approve the after the fact application of Matuszewski, 1062 Bantam Road, for clean-up of existing debris from the cleared area; planting of grass for stabilization; and installation of sculptures in the review area (0.1 acres). This is conditioned upon his not doing any further work or increasing the number of sculptures without applying for a permit. This is an enforcement action for an after the fact.

Second: S. Clarkin

Vote: All voted aye and the motion carried.

REQUESTS

5. Litchfield Land Trust

9/13/23

Letter of support for the acquisition of a 104-acre parcel on Fern Avenue

R. Blazek said he was not comfortable supporting this request, as the Inland Wetlands Commission addresses applications on poorly drained soils. This is more of a real estate transaction, and we are moving into legal areas where we do not belong. J. Hamill was not sure which way to go on this. S. Musselman said this is for the grant application which is due at the end of September, and he said this is a standard boilerplate that most wetland commissions do. He also said it is within the scope of the POCAD. M. Connor said we are in the business of protecting wetlands, and he had similar requests come through

Goshen before. It was suggested to consult our Wetlands attorney, and Mr. Blazek agreed to discuss this with the First Selectman in order to contact the attorney.

6. Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

9/13/23

Letter of support for the acquisition of 670 acres on Town Farm Road

This item will also be tabled for the attorney's opinion.

AGENT DETERMINATION

7. Akumbak – 13 Baldwin Hill Road

9/13/23

Install new septic system in the upland review area (0.1 acres)

S. Musselman let the commissioners know that he gave an agent determination on this application.

8. Litchfield Hills Rowing Club – 244 North Shore Road

9/13/23

Spread wood chips over exposed roots to create level path between boathouse and tree line at Litchfield Town Beach with the condition that stone be placed on the downhill slope towards the beach. Path is to be 144 ft. long x 8 ft. wide at a maximum depth of 8 inches.

S. Musselman explained the safety hazard with rowers carrying the boats over exposed tree roots. He made an agent determination to allow the mulch and crushed stone.

9. Approval of Minutes – August 9, 2023: Motion: Since there was not a majority of those present at the August meeting, Chairman Blazek said approval will be moved to the next agenda.

10. Correspondence

- PGP notification of treatment at Hidden Pond

11. Adjournment: Motion: J. Hamill moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., and S. Clarkin seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary