

LITCHFIELD INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
December 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 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Susan Clarkin, William Dooley, Mike LoRusso and Robert Blazek. Also present were Spencer Musselman, Wetlands Agent, and Ann Combs, Recording Secretary.

Members Absent: Martin Connor, Jack Hamill, Jack Healy

1. Appointment of Alternates: None

Motion: S. Clarkin moved and M. LoRusso seconded a motion to add to the agenda “3b. Fletcher – Milton Road.” All voted aye and the motion passed.

APPLICATION RECEPTIONS

2. Harpin – 407 Bantam Road

12/13/23

New 100' x 4' wide concrete sidewalk (400 sq. ft.)

Motion: W. Dooley moved and S. Clarkin seconded a motion to continue this item to the 1/10/24 meeting. All voted aye and the motion carried.

3. Towne – Ripley Waterfowl Sanctuary

12/13/23

Typical pond maintenance. Dredging of existing ponds in same manner as they were cleaned approximately 20 years ago. Pond bottoms will be scraped and material temporarily piled to dewater, then will be removed from site. Acreage affected is as shown on drawing by size of each pond to be cleared. MBL#s 104-064-23A, 104-064-022, & 104-056-006

AJ Towne of Towne & Aurell and Bill Nicholson, Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy, were present. Mr. Towne presented a map with ponds located and numbered. They will be taking about 1.5 ft. of debris out of each pond. B. Nicholson explained that it has filled in over the years with silt and debris and they want to dig back down to the gravel base. They will be using silt fence in the stockpile area across the road, and it will be taken away after it dewater. They will pump one pond to the next while working, and then continue leapfrogging down the line with a silt bag at the end.

Motion: W. Dooley moved to allow S. Musselman to make an agent determination on this to move it along. S. Clarkin seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

3a. Lavoie – 391 East Litchfield Road

12/13/23

Reactivation of old farm road for temporary construction access. Repair existing swale and remove stumps (10,000 sq. ft. affected) MBL # 111-001-008

Joe Lavoie and his brother-in-law, homeowner John Boucher, were present. They explained the project, using a track pad and silt fence on each side, avoiding the wetlands and improving the swale.

Motion: M. LoRusso moved to allow S. Musselman to do an agent determination on this application by Lavoie at 391 East Litchfield Road for a reactivation of an old farm road for a temporary construction

access, repairing the existing swale and removing stumps. W. Dooley seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

3b. Fletcher – Milton Road

12/13/23

Construct driveway within the upland review area for access new single-family home to be located outside of the upland review area (3,000 sq. ft. affected) MBL # 121-063-02A

Gabe Fletcher, homeowner, wants to build a house near #344 Milton Road. The driveway encroaches on the 100 ft. wetlands setback. He presented a map delineating the driveway by Colby Engineering and Consulting, LLC. He also had a signoff from Torrington Area Health. They will use silt fence and hay bales across the construction area.

4. Hagan – 38 North Shore Road

12/13/23

Request for a 5-year extension on permit #C00001356. Demolish and rebuild dwelling, construct driveway, remove stump/repoint lake wall, remove and install new holding tank & replenish sand on existing beach. MBL# 171-60-10.

Brian Hagan said they would like to extend the permit, as they were held up during COVID. There are no changes to the application.

Motion: S. Clarkin moved to extend the application for five years for Hagan, 38 North Shore Road, on permit C00001356, to demolish and rebuild the dwelling, construct a driveway, remove stump/repoint lake wall, remove and install a new holding tank & replenish sand on existing beach. M. LoRusso seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

5. Inland Wetlands Agent Report

1. Budget: S. Musselman presented the draft budget and said it is the same as last year's. They have used no legal money out of the \$1,000 budgeted and are ¼ way through the advertising line. Commissioners reviewed the budget line items and were satisfied. R. Blazek complimented S. Musselman for keeping a tight rein on the budget.

Motion: S. Clarkin moved and W. Dooley seconded a motion to approve the budget amounts as presented on 12/13/23 for FY 2024/25. All voted aye and the motion carried.

2. Ron Viola: S. Musselman said Mr. Viola is an abutter to the Silicon Ranch solar farm on Wilson and Town Farm Roads and is concerned about a huge retention pond they are adding to the property just above his property. The plan has changed quite a bit from when it was approved by the Siting Council, and Mr. Viola would like the Commission to issue a letter to the Siting Council noting its concerns. S. Musselman will prepare all documents for the Commission to review at the next meeting. R. Blazek said the IWC is a neutral body and should not get involved, but S. Musselman said the local authority still has jurisdiction over the use, so they have some say, although the Siting Council supersedes authority. The Commission can request information from the Siting Council to study, and Chairman Blazek instructed Mr. Musselman to do so. He hesitated to write a letter, however, as we are a regulatory body, not an advisory body. S. Musselman noted that since the application has changed so drastically, we would have an opportunity for comment. Mr. Blazek was very cautious and suggested perhaps the Board of Selectmen could comment.

6. Approval of Minutes – November 8, 2023: There was not a majority of members present who were also present at the 11/8/23 meeting, so approval was tabled until the next meeting.

7. Correspondence: Litchfield Community Greenway newsletter

8. Adjournment: Motion: M. LoRusso moved and S. Clarkin seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary