

Minutes: The Inland Wetlands Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting via Zoom teleconferencing technology on Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

Commissioners in attendance: Joan Lakin (Chair), Kirk Shadle (Vice Chair), George Schneider, Jonathan Clapp, Lauren Wholey, Brad Macdowall, Tim Mack, Michael Stone.

Staff in attendance: Eugene Livshits (Town Planner), Thomas Vocelli (IWC Enforcement Officer), Tim Lee (Assistant Town Attorney), Camile Deans (Commission Clerk), Ron Walters (Regional Water Authority)

Ms. Lakin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Mr. Shadle took attendance and Ms. Lakin noted the Staff in attendance. Commissioner absent: Michael Milazzo

I. Public Comment Section

Chairman Lakin called for public comments.

There were no public comments.

II. Application:

a. 23-1250 Valley View Drive between #28 and #35

Dredging and restoration of a detention basin

Hamden Hollows Owners Association, Inc – Applicant

Zach Georgina with Juliano Associates, Surveyor and Project Engineer, represented the applicant. Mr. Georgina gave a brief history and summary of the project, he shared his screen to display the site plan, and he then gave a detailed explanation about the site and the proposed project.

Mr. Georgina explained that the project is completely a maintenance project. He informed the panel that aside from maintenance of vegetation and trash that in-depth maintenance has never been done. The detention basin has years of silt build-up to the point where it is overflowing more regularly than normal with minor storm events and filling up more than it should be. They are proposing to dredge the pond which should have been done regularly to upkeep the pond. They are also proposing a de-watering operation, as the pond currently retains water. They are also proposing a temporary construction entrance.

Commissioner Schneider had a question. He stated that the site was built in the early 1980's, and he asked if there is a maintenance plan that was developed originally? Mr. Georgina said, historically speaking, he doesn't see a lot of storm water plans from the 1980's, and a lot of basins were built

and never required any maintenance plan. Modern practice would be to include a storm water maintenance plan. Commissioner Schneider asked what the frequency of cleaning would be for a modern system. Mr. Georgina informed him that they would require annual inspections as needed, the intent being as you notice any silt build-up specifically in the spring you would remove it. Commissioner Schneider also wanted to know if Mr. Georgina has seen this type of situation before and if this is his first de-watering project. Mr. Georgina informed him that this is his first de-watering so close to a wetland, but he has seen them before. Commissioner Schneider asked if he is mimicking the plans used in other situations, to which Mr. Georgina responded yes.

Commissioner Shadle asked if the excavator will be entering the basin or will it remain on the grassy area? Mr. Georgina said yes, it will be entering the basin and it will be using the gated construction entrance. It will also be working from north to south and it will be taking material as it goes and depositing it. Commissioner Shadle also wanted to know if there will be any need for the basin to be re-built or re-engineered after the excavator has disturbed the area. Mr. Georgina said no, since they are literally mimicking the grade of the slope that is currently not silted. Commissioner Shadle wanted a clarification regarding the construction entrance. He was concerned about the excavator making turns and disturbing the soil area that is close to the brook. Mr. Georgina said it was hard to say because he wasn't sure what size vehicle they will be using, but any materials that would be disturbed in the grassy area will be contained by the silt fence in the de-watering area. Any disturbed grass that's there will be re-seeded after they remove the temporary de-watering area and it will be covered.

Commissioner Mack had a question regarding a time-line. Will they be doing it in the dry weather season like summer ? Mr. Georgina confirmed that yes, they try to do projects like this in the dry season summer months. Mr. Mack also asked for a few clarifications on the site plan, which Mr. Georgina provided.

Commissioner Clapp had a question --- he wanted to know how the project was being funded. Mr. Georgina responded that it's being funded by the Home Owners Association (HOA).

Chairman Lakin entertained a motion to table the application for a site inspection. **Commissioner Schneider made a motion to table for a site inspection. Commissioner Mack seconded the motion.**

There was a question from attendee Maxine with the HOA. She wanted to know the time-line from the site inspection to the actual project start-time. Mr. Vocelli answered the question by confirming that there should be enough time to complete the permitting process and begin work as scheduled, so long as there are no unexpected delays.

The Chair called for a vote to table the application for a site inspection. All commissioners present were in favor. Mr. Vocelli will notify everyone of the inspection date.

III. New Business:

Chairman Lakin asked for a motion to add an item to the agenda --- 40 Stanley Road. Assistant Town Attorney Tim Lee pointed out that there doesn't need to be a motion to add an item to the agenda if no action is going to be taken on the item.

Mr. Vocelli described the failure of the Belden Brook culvert-crossing end-wall at 40 Stanley Road and the damage to one of the twin culvert-pipes. He informed the commission that they will be getting repair plans either in February or by the next regular meeting on March 1st.

Mr. Livshits added that Mr. Vocelli will keep everyone in the loop if any information comes up in the meantime, and the Engineering Department is working closely with all concerned. Mr. Vocelli encouraged members to visit the site, so long as they stay on hard pavement.

Commissioner Shadle asked if the members should authorize Mr. Vocelli to consult with the chair and one commission member if there is anything that requires immediate attention before the March meeting. Attorney Lee agreed that this could be helpful.

Chairman Lakin requested a motion for the proposed idea. **Commissioner Schneider made a motion that the Wetlands Enforcement Officer be empowered to authorize appropriate action after consulting with the chair and one other commission member in the event that an imminent situation occurs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shadle. All commissioners were in favor.**

IV. Other Business:

a. Review of January 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Schneider motioned to approve the minutes; Commissioner Mack seconded the motion. All members present were in favor of the motion.

b. Storm water catch-basins

Mr. Ron Walters with the Regional Water Authority informed the commission that he had submitted a grant application to the Green Fund for \$3200 that would cover 600 storm-drain medallions and leave \$200 for printing materials. They will know if they received the grant by August; if so, the medallions can be installed by the fall. Commissioner Tim Mack had a question; he wanted to confirm that the money included glue. Mr. Walters responded yes.

The Chair informed everyone that the Town Clerk will hold a mandatory hybrid meeting for Commission Chairs and Clerks regarding the revised Town Charter on Feb 9th at 6:30 pm.

c. Review site inspection schedule

Mr. Vocelli will take care of the schedule for the Valley View Drive site inspection. The site visit will take place on a Saturday or a Sunday during the month of February.

d. Adjournment

Mr. Clapp motioned to adjourn; Mr. Shadle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Camile Deans Commission Clerk