

**Town of Washington, CT
Bryan Memorial Town Hall
Washington Depot, CT 06794**

**Inland Wetlands Commission
Site Inspection Report**

November 16, 2021, 3:00 PM

Wetlands Application #IW-21-58: – Construction of Driveway, Washington, CT.

Applicant: Ellen Hanson and Richard Perlman.

Location: 36 Hinkle Rd., Washington, CT.

Commissioners present: Bruce Bennett, Bob Papsin, Larry Gendron, Joline Audet, Chris Koppel

Land Use Staff present: None

Others present: Kellen Freeman, Christopher LaGuardia, Douglas DiVesta, Chuck Willette

Permit Components

- A. Proposed Driveway – western wetlands
- B. Proposed Driveway – eastern wetlands (area of pond)
- C. Replacement of Driveway Culvert (pond outlet)
- D. Utilities Pond Outlet Crossing

A. Proposed Driveway – western wetlands

The weather was clear and dry. Commissioners gathered on Hinkle Road at the entrance to the proposed driveway in the area of the wetlands at the western portion of the property. Mr. DiVesta explained that the centerline of the proposed driveway as depicted on the submitted plans was staked with orange ribbons. Selected portions of the wetland areas were staked with pink ribbons and a proposed alternative route for the driveway was staked with yellow ribbons. The commissioners walked the proposed driveway route as presently designed to the first crossing of the watercourse. There was active flow in the stream. At the point of crossing, the stream bed was approximately 2'-00" in width with water depth approximately several inches. Mr. DiVesta explained that the original plan was to install a 12" CPP culvert pipe with fieldstone end walls. The proposed driveway would have elevation above grade at the crossing. The Commissioners continued walking the route as presently proposed toward the second stream crossing with Mr. DiVesta explaining the actual driveway construction would require some deviation from the plan in order to minimize removal of larger trees. The Commissioners discussed a permit condition that trees in excess of 15" circumference would not be removed absent approval by the EO/Commission. The second stream crossing also had healthy water flow with the width at the proposed crossing site approximately 4'-00" and water depth similarly several inches. Mr. DiVesta explained that consideration was given to the use of a preformed concrete box culvert (no bottom) as a better method for the driveway crossings of the stream. The strength specifications for such culverts was discussed and noted that the applicant would need to contact the Washington Fire Marshal to confirm approval of the culvert specifications. The Commissioners walked the alternate route (yellow ribbons) to return to the proposed driveway entrance at Hinkle Road. The alternate route appeared more grade tolerant although there would nevertheless be some cutting and filling. Mr. DiVesta explained that the downgradient edge of the driveway would be supported with boulders as needed and that a 20' buffer of sedge and plantings would line both sides of the driveway with removal of invasives. The Commissioners requested that a planting list be provided along with a 5-year maintenance plan. Further, a full construction sequence is to be provided identifying the equipment to be utilized. The applicant was also instructed to mark the trees to be saved.

B. Proposed Driveway – eastern wetlands (area of pond)

The Commissioners traveled to the eastern section of the property to view the proposed driveway route as it circled from the north edge of the property toward and around the pond. Mr. DiVesta identified the route along the eastern shore of the pond (approximately 20+ feet from the shoreline) that was predominantly clear of trees. The proposal included a retaining wall (dry laid) along a portion of the western edge of the driveway. The grade was noted, and the Commissioners inquired of the potential water flow over the driveway and erosion and carrying of sediments toward the pond. Mr. DiVesta explained mitigation features that could be employed including Geotextile.

C. Replacement of Driveway Culvert Crossing

The present driveway crossing over the pond outlet is a steel culvert pipe that is deteriorated. The proposal is to dam the outlet during the dry season and replace the existing culvert pipe with equivalent CPP and restore the driveway to its presently existing characteristics.

D. Utilities Crossing of Pond Outlet

The applicant proposes the installation of a 250-kW diesel generator at the Eversource transformer location off Hinkle Road. The utilities would be run underground northerly toward the proposed new main dwelling requiring a crossing of the pond outlet approximately ½ the distance from its commencement at the pond to terminus at the property line contiguous with Hinkle Road. Mr. DiVesta explained that the conduit would be imbedded in a prefab concrete base. In conjunction with the damming of the pond outlet for the upstream culvert replacement, the stream bed at the utilities crossing would be excavated to sufficient depth to permit the placement of the preformed concrete base such that the top of the utilities conduit would be a minimum of 30” below the replaced stream bed. The stream bed to be restored to preexisting characteristics. It was noted that as the surrounding area was overgrown, clearing of an equipment access approximately 10’ wide would be necessary to accomplish the work. A planting plan for restoration is to be provided.

The site visit ended at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce P. Bennett