Inland Wetlands Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

November 10, 2016

7:00 p.m. main level meeting room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Davis, Mr. LaMuniere, Mr. Papsin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Bedini, Mr. Wadelton

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Kassis

ALTERNATE ABSENT: Ms. Cheney

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Ajello, Mrs. Hill

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Brodie, Mr. Gawel, Mr. Neff

Mr. Papsin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and seated Members Davis, LaMuniere, and Papsin and Alternates Bennett and Kassis for Mr. Wadelton and Mr. Bedini.

Consideration of the Minutes

MOTION: To accept the 10/26/16 Regular Meeting minutes

as written. By Mr. LaMuniere, seconded by

Mr. Bennett, and passed 5-0.

Pending Applications

Meyer/106 Shearer Road/#IW-16-30/Dredge Pond, Repair Dam, Repair Footbridge, Access, Fireplace, Pier: Mr. Ajello reported there had been no contact from the applicant and that the 65 day time limit in which to act on the application would expire before the next meeting. He said an extension should have been requested. It was noted that the Commission was waiting for final plans before scheduling a site inspection and for approval from the holder of the conservation easement on the property. Mr. Ajello read the 10/26/16 minutes and again stated that final plans were needed. He recommended a denial without prejudice for lack of information.

MOTION: To deny without prejudice the application submitted

by Meyer/106 Shearer Road/#IW-16-30 to dredge

the pond and repair the dam, footbridge, access,

fireplace, and pier because the application is

incomplete. By Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Papsin,

and passed 5-0.

New Applications

Brodie/17 Wheaton Road/#IW-16-34/Install Footing Drain: Mr. Gawel, contractor, explained the basement had recently flooded due to a plugged outlet for the hand dug well in the basement. When looking into the problem, he discovered the house has no footing drains. He proposed to dig around the house, waterproof the foundation walls, install the proper footing drains, connect them to an existing drain, and fill in the basement well with sand and cement its inlet, saying the work would take about one week. He stated he would not dig farther than 15 feet from the house and that the work would not redirect more water to the existing drain than had originally been intended. Mr. Ajello asked if the outlet of the existing drain was visible. Mr. Gawel said it was, there was no washout at the outflow, that it emptied in an area with tall grasses, and that there would be no disturbance in the wetlands. The topography of the property and location of the existing septic system, drain, and wetlands were pointed out on the site plan; no signature, no date. Mr. LaMuniere said the plans would not result in significant drainage into the wetlands and thought there was no threat of adverse impact to the wetlands. Mr. Ajello read the 11/8/16 statement from Mr. Gawel, which addressed the outstanding issues raised in Mrs. Hill’s application review. Stabilization of disturbed areas was discussed. Mr. Gawel said he would check the silt fence periodically and would leave it up until grass was firmly established in the spring. There were no concerns raised and the applicant was advised that she need not attend the next meeting.

Tollman/41 New Preston Hill Road/#IW-16-35/Agricultural Exemption

Fill in Lagoon: Mr. Neff, engineer, noted there was no residence on the property and that the lagoon had been put in many years ago when a dairy farm was in operation. He said the property currently has a barn and horse pasture. He proposed to fill in the lagoon, which is located in the upland review area, by pumping it down, pushing in the surrounding berm, grading it over, and seeding it. He said the lagoon was shallow so the material in the berm would be enough to fill it in. Mr. Davis asked how removal of the lagoon would impact drainage in the area. Mr. Neff said it would continue to sheet flow down the hill. He added that the manager of the farm was worried the lagoon would be a breeding place for mosquitoes. Mr. Davis asked how far away the closest wetlands were. Mr. Neff stated they were at least 100 feet down the hill behind thick vegetation and pointed out the location in a photo. Mr. Papsin asked if this was an activity allowed by right, and Mr. Ajello responded it qualified as an agricultural exemption.

MOTION: To approve Application #IW-16-35 submitted by

Tollman to fill in the lagoon at 41 New

Preston Hill Road as an agricultural exemption.

By Mr. LaMuniere, seconded by Mr. Davis, and

passed 5-0.

Other Business

It was noted the state DOT had sent notification dated 10/26/16 of work to replace the bridge over Mallory Brook on Rt. 109. The documents and maps are on file for interested commissioners or the public to review.

Enforcement

Mr. Ajello reviewed his 11/9/16 report. In addition, he noted the following:

Sarjeant/28 Tinker Hill Road: Mr. Ajello circulated the approved restoration plan and a photo of the planting done and asked the commissioners to compare the two. Mr. Papsin noted it looked like all of the required plants had been planted, but that it would take time for the vegetation to fill out. Mr. LaMuniere questioned why the plants had been set back so far from the road. Mr. Ajello thought this might be a good thing due to the use of salt on the road. The commissioners will drive by to determine whether the work done was satisfactory. It was the consensus the enforcement officer should wait until spring to make sure the plants survive before signing off on the restoration work.

Frank/157 West Shore Road: Mrs. Frank has advised Mr. Ajello that an application will be submitted at the next meeting.

Town of Washington/Installation of Culvert on Clark Road: Mr. Ajello reported the culvert had been replaced without an application to the Commission. He noted some towns either exempt themselves or grant blanket five year permits to their public works dept., but said Washington is not one of them. Mr. LaMuniere asked if the Town has the right to do work within 25 ft. of a Town road. Mr. Ajello stated that was not permitted in the Regulations. Mr. Davis noted he had driven by and it did not look like the disturbed areas had been stabilized and that a top dressing was needed. Mr. Ajello will call Mr. Smith to ask that this be taken care of. Mr. Ajello said this matter could be discussed at the next meeting if the Commission chose to do so.

There being no further business, Mr. Papsin adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Hill, Land Use Administrator