



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

Recording of Votes

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not a verbatim transcription

December 08, 2022

Members present: Susan Baker, chair; Alan Pilch, secretary; Tracey Miller(joined at 7:04); Tim Bishop; David Smith; Chris Phelps

Also present: Robert Jewell; Kate Throckmorton; Steve Sullivan; Tracy Chalifoux; Mark Amler
Robert Leisegang

I. Call to order: Ms. Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II: Public Hearing:

- 1. (Contd.)IW-22-37, 0 Wilton Road East,** Summary Ruling application to construct single family home and a bridge over Silvermine River within wetlands and upland review area of wetlands. *Statutorily received on October 13, 2022. 65 days to render a decision is December 17, 2022. Owner: Pyramid Luxury Homes of Ridgefield LLC. Applicant:Kate Throckmorton.* <https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/88408>

Ms. Paranjape listed the 4 new documents submitted since the November 10, 2022 Public hearing.

Ms. Throckmorton presented the revised plan. She said that as per Board's recommendations the updates have been done. The stormwater system outlet has been pulled back from the river and will go to a planted swale. The oak tree has been saved by moving the southwest gallery. The existing substrate will be replaced under bridge and is included in plans and notes. The notes also include the blast mat for the stream crossing. The planting plan includes native plants and the buffer plantings have been enlarged between the house and the river. The planting all the way to the walkway has been tweaked in order to get access for maintenance. A two feet boulder wall has been proposed. The boulder wall is not continuous but will have a gap.

Mr. Pilch questioned the distance between the planting and chambers. And noted the boulder wall is typically a "two man" boulder wall.

Ms. Throckmorton confirmed the wall is not more than twenty four inches high and extends away from the galleries. Adjustments will be made to keep the distance and the boulder wall as per requests.

Ms. Miller commended the applicant for following the recommendations. She inquired about the height of the substrate matter. Mr. Sullivan stated he will have more idea when the excavation starts.

Mr. Jewell stated that the redesigned plan proposes less disturbance and less impact on the Silvermine Brook and surrounding area.

Updates presented included sedge buffer, infiltrator locations/outflow, additional ground cover near buffer, narrative about stream crossing, excavating and saving substrate, invasive removal where possible.

The public hearing was closed at 7:12PM.

IW-22-42, 129 Spring Valley Road, Plenary Ruling Application for dredging within a pond and Mopus Brook. *Owner:* Batavia Farm LLC, applicant: Tracy Chalifoux. *Statutorily received on November 10, 2022. 35 days to close a Public Hearing is January 12, 2023.* <https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/89382>

Ms. Paranjape listed the 30 documents attached to the Plenary Ruling application.

Ms. Chalifoux presented the Plenary Ruling Application. The application proposes Hydraulic Suction dredging from the south to the north of the pond. The Suction dredging raft will be positioned opposite the existing barn and will be craned without disturbing the existing vegetation. The dredge material/slurry will be pumped into the geotextile dewatering bags. Five bags will be placed on the flat graded area outside of the 100' review area.

The existing cattails will be removed improving the health of the wetlands habitat keeping the original depth of the pond. Total of approximately six months will be involved where three months will be the process of dredging and another three months for sediments to dry.

The spoils will be spread in the vicinity with earthen berm around the bags. This whole process is great for habitat as no draw down of the pond is required. Three turbidity curtains will be installed. Once the sediments are dried and spread, it will be reseeded to keep the area as agricultural meadow. Existing gravel path will be used to access the machinery and equipment, and tracking pads will be installed. Total of 6,000 cubic yards of wet material will be dredged and once dried, would be 1500 cubic yards which will be spread. An area to the east of the bridge will be armored by installing ten feet of boulders and native plantings. Opposite the residence are sink holes which will be repaired.

Mr. Pilch inquired about the details of plantings. He suggested native plants to be planted due to the proximity to water. He suggested a riparian buffer of planting in the area where the manicured lawn extends to the pond. He suggested opposite to the main dwelling a no mow zone would be advantageous.

Ms. Miller stated that she believes the landscaping might have been done by a renowned Landscape Architect A.E. Bye. She suggested to keep the no mow zone to honor the historic landscape architect's design. Also, the concave areas in the lawn where the spoils are to be spread could have been there for aesthetic reasons, just something to consider when spreading the spoils.

Ms. Baker inquired where the sediments are coming from to the pond and if that could be contained.

Mr. Amler commented they are not aware but he assumes it could be due to the storms coming from the Mopus Brook during high flow events and eroding the banks, depositing it in the open pond area.

Mr. Phelps inquired if they use diver dredging. Mr. Amler mentioned he uses diver dredging which has low water agitation. The shallow area will use manual dredging.

Discussion ensued and members suggested before the next meeting to address the following issues:

- Plan for the no mow zone of at least eight feet by the side of the house towards the north side.
- Maintenance plan: a narrative which will state inspection and maintenance for methods and monitoring of the sediment deposition happening due to storms.
- Plan should show the four foot path through the no-mow area.
- Update plan with buffer planting.

Public Hearing continued to December 22, 2022.

III: Application(s) for Discussion:

IW-22-37, 0 Wilton Road East, Summary Ruling application to construct single family home and a bridge over Silvermine River within wetlands and upland review area of wetlands. *Statutorily received on October 13, 2022. 65 days to render a decision is December 17, 2022. Owner: Pyramid Luxury Homes of Ridgefield LLC. Applicant: Kate Throckmorton.* <https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/88408>

Ms. Miller motioned and Mr. Pilch seconded to Approve the Plenary Ruling Application with Standard and Special conditions. Motion carried unanimously.

Publication date is December 15, 2022 with effective date of December 16, 2022.

IV: Application(s) for Receipt:

None

V: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

VI: Other Business:

1. Election of Officers.

Ms. Baker informed the members that the vacant position on the Board has been appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The new member will be sworn in before the last meeting in December and that therefore the election should be held at the December 22 meeting.

Board agreed to the suggestion.

2. 2023 IWB/APA Meeting Calendar-

Ms. Baker informed members that the Aquifer Protection Agency meeting should be scheduled once a year given no application submission in the past couple of years. If the Board receives an application a Special meeting can be scheduled. It was suggested that the meeting should be scheduled in the middle of the year. Board unanimously agreed.

Mr. Bishop motioned and Mr. Phelps seconded to Approve the meeting calendars for Inland Wetlands Board and Aquifer Protection Agency. Motion carried unanimously.

3. 2 Hessian Drive- Revision to plan for pool permit IW-22-10

Mr. Leisegang informed the Board that for the prior pool approval IW-22-10, when the work started they noticed higher water table and the height of the pool needs to be raised. They propose a wing wall on both the sides. The work will not increase any new disturbed area. The height is almost 2 ½ feet high which is same height as along the pool.

Members were okay with approving this revision administratively and stated no revision to the prior approved is required.

4. Connecticut Conservation and Inland Wetland Commission (CACIWC)- Discussion

Members discussed the deadline for application submission. Discussion ensued if eight days prior to the regular meeting should be the deadline. The logic was that before the application is received by the Board, there should be enough time for Staff to deem the application complete. The submission for revised documents while discussion is ongoing was also noted. Members believed in order to give sufficient time to the members to review before the meeting the deadline to submit revised documents should be seventy-two hours. Members will discuss more when proposing the text amendment.

Ms. Miller will contact the person who will conduct a seminar and sitewalk with information about the New England Wetlands.

VII: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** November 10, 2022

Mr. Bishop motioned and Mr. Smith seconded to Approve the above minutes. Motion carried unanimously

- **Sitewalk Meeting:** December 04, 2022

Ms. Miller motioned and Mr. Pilch seconded to Approve the Sitewalk minutes. Mr. Bishop and Mr. Phelps Abstained. Motion carried 4-0-2.

VIII: Executive Session

IX: Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 9:17 P. M.

Submitted by Aarti Paranjape,

Recording Secretary