



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

April 08, 2021

Members present: Patricia Sesto: Chair, Susan Baker: Vice Chair, Tim Bishop, Tracey Miller, Alan Pilch, David Tatge

Members absent: Kory Salomone

Also present: Agent, Aarti Paranjape, Office Administrator; Tory Sidoti, Robert R. Jewell, Jeff Mose-Mose Associate Architects, Craig Studer-Studer Design Associates, Steve Sullivan CCA LLC, Kate Throckmorton –Environmental Land Solutions LLC

I. Call to order

Ms. Sesto called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Discussions

- 1) **#IW-21-15, 41 Governor Street**, Summary Ruling Application for additions and associated site work within the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield Inc. Applicant: Robert R. Jewell, Esq.*

Mr. Jewell stated that since the last meeting the applicant has addressed the comments raised by the Board.

Mr. Studer gave a brief overview to the members. He said the proposed walkway was reconfigured to a serpentine shape; pulling the walkway almost ten feet farther away from the brook headwall. The retaining wall next to the walkway is four feet in high. Plantings are between the headwall and the wall. A rain garden is now proposed between the walkway and the building.

The restoration plan for the temporary accessway has been revised to include more plantings. Ms. Sesto took issue with the center of the accessway not being planted and urged uniform plantings across the temporary accessway to better enable stabilization.

Ms. Throckmorton gave an overview of the planting plan. The planting details include the wetlands plantings as suggested by Ms. Miller. The plan includes the schedule of the activity for the removal of invasive species, especially porcelain berry. The plans include the rain garden plans and an explicit turtle protection plan.

Mr. Pilch inquired about the accessway surfacing after restoration.



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Mr. Studer explained that it's not prepared surface - it will be topsoil which will be seeded and stabilized. It's not specifically intended to be a walking path, but post construction, it could be used to walk around.

Mr. Pilch asked about the drainage swale at the foot of the temporary accessway. He expressed concern about the graded slope which is very close to the wetlands.

Mr. Sullivan explained the erosion and sediment control measures, which include a double row of silt fence. Stone check dams will be used during construction. Construction fencing is installed around the proposed Cultec areas to prevent compaction. The roof leaders will drain to the nine-inch deep, linear rain garden. Additional notes were added to the construction sequence which includes the turtle sweep and turtle protection guidelines.

Ms. Sesto voiced further concerns of the runoff along the low side of accessway and requested water bars.

Mr. Sullivan stated water bars can be added along the construction accessway to direct flow to the check dams.

Mr. Pilch's suggested a permanent erosion measure like check dams near the area in the northwest corner of silt fence.

Ms. Sesto inquired about the management plan and how it would be effectively communicated to property management in the long term.

Mr. Jewell suggested creating the detailed management plan in a binder. He suggested putting plaques identifying the rain garden and its purpose.

Ms. Throckmorton confirmed the invasive species management effort will be at least for three years minimum.

Ms. Sesto asked about the notes for decompacting soil. Mr. Studer confirmed the notes are on the grading plans.

Ms. Sesto stated that along with normal general and special conditions, the following additional special conditions could be included in a motion to approve.

- Planting plan to be revised to incorporate the uniform coverage at the temporary access.
- erosion and sediment control be revised to add water bars, and at north-west corner, check dams
- Reconfiguration of silt fence along the south side of the accessway.



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- Manual detailing the maintenance of plantings and vegetation on site. Manual should include the pictures of plants to be removed.
- Bond to be posted for planting plan and erosion and sediment control.

Mr. Tatge motioned to approve the Summary Ruling with standard general and special conditions, and the additional special conditions articulated by Ms. Sesto. Ms. Miller seconded it. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Publication date will be April 15, 2021 and effective date April 16, 2021.

III. Applications to be received:

Ms. Sesto asked for a motion to add an item IW-21-19 to the agenda- application for walkway at Branchville Road and Florida Road.

Mr. Pilch motioned, and Ms. Baker seconded to add the IW-21-19, Summary Ruling Application to the agenda. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Mr. Tatge motioned, and Ms. Baker seconded to receive the three applications. Motion carried 6-0-0.

- 1) **IW-21-17, 10 Kendra Court**, Plenary Ruling Application to remedy a violation (#2020-079-WV) for work within the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Mark & Estee Gurwitz. Applicant: Kate Throckmorton.*

<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/80521>

- 2) **IW-21-18, 293 North Salem Road**, Summary Ruling Application for an inground pool and associated site work within the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Scott & Jennifer Soodek. Applicant: Michael Mazzucco.*

<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/80915>

- 3) **IW-21-19, Branchville Road & Florida Road**, Summary Ruling application for constructing a walkway along the Branchville Road and Florida road. Applicant: Branchville TOD, Tighe & Bond. Owner: Town of Ridgefield.



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The site walk is scheduled for April 18, 2021. The public hearing for IW-21-17 is scheduled for April 22, 2021. The discussion for IW-21-18 and IW-21-19 will be held on April 22, 2021.

IV. Administrative Approvals:

None

V. List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

1) 21 Bryon Avenue

Ms. Baker briefed the members about the enforcement. She informed the Board that the applicant had removed some trees and established a lawn and wall near the stream. She added, since she couldn't enter the property without the permission of the owner, she was only able to observe from outside the premise. She said it was difficult to see if the wetlands were filled. Ms. Baker said it was also difficult to observe if the rain garden as approved during the subdivision application still existed.

The notice of violation was sent to the homeowner, stating a date to submit an application for remedy.

2) 384 Branchville Road

Mr. Tatge informed the members the homeowner, in addition to clear scrub adjacent to the wetland, brought 90 yards of fill to grade the property, in part to make a pad for a proposed garage. He also graded the steep slope to the east.

Mr. Tatge will send a violation notice and state to the owner is to submit a remedy application by a noted date.

3) 136 Limekiln Road

Mr. Pilch visited the site and talked to the homeowner. He stated the property owner had dumped the wood chips around the pond and in wetlands. He added the property owner proposes to put some stones around the pond, which according to the homeowner is leaking.

A notice of violation will be sent stating the date to submit a corrective application. If the application is not submitted, then an order can be issued to the homeowner and a show-cause hearing held.



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With the owner's permission, the Board will walk the site on April 18, 2021.

VI. Other Business

1) Compliance Inspections-

a) 28 Nutmeg Court

Mr. Pilch and Ms. Baker informed the members that they performed the inspection and the erosion measures have been installed according to the required standards. The applicant also installed hay bales.

b) 21 Powderhorn Road

Mr. Bishop reported no site work has begun at the property. He will inspect again.

2) Bond Releases

Ms. Sesto stated there are old bonds dating from 2005 that need inspections to approve releases. She asked for volunteers. She conveyed her standard for success is the area being stable and 80% of the plants are thriving. Given the age of some of these plans, members may need to use their discretion to determine if the intent of the planting plan has been met and forego specific plant counts.

Mr. Bishop will inspect 50 Ivy Hill Road - 2015-105-SR

Mr. Pilch and Ms. Miller will inspect following properties -

- Pumping Station & Flatrock Drive - #2005-069-S-SR
- Lot #39 Wilton Road East - #2008-119-PR
- 29 Prospect Street - #2014-008-PR-SP-VDC

3) Ms. Sesto informed the Board that an interview was held for the Inland Wetland Agent and an offer has been given to the candidate. Human Resources will inform if the candidate has accepted the offer.

VII. Approval of Minutes:

Inland Wetlands Meeting – March 25, 2021

Mr. Pilch motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Baker seconded it. Motion carried 6-0-0.



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VIII. Adjourn

Hearing no further discussion, Ms. Sesto adjourned the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary