



## TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

### APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

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

February 09, 2023

Members present: Susan Baker, chair; Tim Bishop, vice chair; Alan Pilch, secretary; Tracey Miller; David Smith; Carson Fincham

Members absent: Chris Phelps

Also present: John Deakins, Robert Jewell, Kate Throckmorton, Dave Anderson

#### **I. Call to order:**

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

#### **II: Application(s) for Discussion:**

- 1. (Contd.) IW-22-45, 105 New Street**, Summary Ruling application for extension of existing detached garage within upland review area of wetlands. *Owner/Applicant: John Deakins.*

<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/90059>

Mr. Deakins presented the planting plan. The plants were mix of native plants which included flowering plants, grasses and sedges. The planting will cover 900 square feet of the area. Mr. Deakins added the plan is to remove the invasive species and start planting in the spring. He added until the invasive species are removed (which can take some time) planting will continue.

Board acknowledged the planting plan and stated that the selection is appropriate.

Board stated following conditions:

- Plants to be spaced 8-18 inches
- A bond posted for 2 years where 80% of the planting should thrive.

**Ms. Miller Motioned to approve the Summary Ruling application with the above mentioned conditions. Mr. Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

The publication date is February 16 and effective date is February 17, 2023.

**2.IW-23-2; 41 Governor Street,** Summary Ruling application for modification to the approved planting plan for a project within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. *Owner: Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield Inc. Applicant: Robert Jewell.*  
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/90449>

Mr. Jewell informed the board that B & G club is no longer required to make the temporary accessway permanent, as required by the Fire Marshall. This application is for the planting plan. There is no change in the planting plan but the sizes of the proposed plants are reduced.

Ms. Throckmorton stated that the approved plants were much bigger in size, she proposes the size of the trees from 10 ft high to 6 ft high and shrubs from 5 ft to 3 ft. The quantity and the selection of the planting remains the same.

Mr. Pilch noticed that the planting plan shared by Ms. Throckmorton is the correct one and that it did not reflect the same plan which was approved by Board in the past. Members noticed that the planting plan looked modified. The Board was okay with reducing the size of the trees and shrubs, however they expressed concern over the missing Green mountain Sugar maple. Also, some of the plants were not labeled on the plan and should be so that the planting can be approved in the field.

Discussion ensued, and members asked the applicant to resubmit the planting plan and continue the discussion to next meeting.

**III: Application(s) for Receipt:**

None

**IV: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:**

Ms. Baker updated the members that there are no new violations and that she is working with couple of homeowners who will be submitting corrective action applications.

**V: Other Business:**

**1. Talk by David Anderson- New England Wetland Plants.**

Ms. Miller introduced Mr. Anderson, stating that she often refers to his website, (newp.com) which is very informative regarding alternatives to rip rap, Mr. Anderson gave an overview of rip rap. He said typically it is used for protection of stream banks from water velocity. He explained how coir logs, erosion control blankets, and straw blankets work, and how they are installed.

Questions arose regarding the applicability/functioning of the coir blankets when the slopes are very steep and the water current is very fast. Mr. Anderson said that tight coir nets are used for stabilization. Planting plugs is also easy in these nets. These have a longer life span to hold the soil in place, the only con being it's very expensive.

Mr. Pilch inquired about what kind of material is recommended on north or south facing slopes. Mr. Anderson said that cold season grasses would work better in general as they will germinate more rapidly.

Mr. Anderson also talked about when hydromulch can be used and live stakes, which are planted in small trenches covered partially with soil to plant willows, sambucus, elderberry etc., on slopes.

Members thanked Mr. Anderson for sharing the wealth of information.

## **2. Inland Wetlands Agent**

Ms. Baker informed members about the newly hired Inland Wetlands Agent, Caleb Johnson. She gave a brief background about him. The new agent will start on Monday February 13, 2023. She added since he has not completed the DEEP training, Board will be reviewing any administrative approvals.

Ms. Baker mentioned about the Charter revision updates.

Ms. Baker asked Mr. Bishop about the informational document regarding wetlands regulations he had mentioned in past. Mr. Bishop will share the link with members.

## **VI: Approval of Minutes:**

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** January 12, 2023

**Mr. Pilch motioned and Mr. Bishop seconded to approve the above minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **VIII: Adjourn**

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Submitted by Aarti Paranjape,

Recording Secretary