



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
Inland Wetlands Board
WEB BASED MEETING VIA ZOOM

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

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

October 26, 2023

Members present: Susan Baker, chair; Carson Fincham, Tim Bishop, vice chair; Chris Phelps David Smith

Members absent:

Also present: Caleb Johnson, IW Agent; Steven Trinkaus, Joseph Fossi, Robert Jewell, Michelle Micoli (Artel Engineering), Robert Daher, George Logan.

I. Call to order:

Ms. Baker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. Discussion

- 1. IW-23-34: 54 Ketcham Rd.** Summary ruling application to construct a crossing of intermittent stream with accessway and associated work within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. *Owner: Joseph & Diane Fossi. Applicant: Steven Trinkaus. Statutorily received September 14, 2023*
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/93444>

Mr. Trinkaus updated the Board about the two kinds of culvert pipes he proposed. He also said the applicant agrees to install an open box culvert. He added that the homeowner will be back in front of the Board when they propose the lot lines for the new lots. He also confirmed that the force main will be installed four feet under the driveway during the installation of the culvert to avoid future disturbance.

Mr. Bishop acknowledged the applicant agreeing to install the open box culvert to maintain the natural substrate.

Following special conditions were stated:

- Install open box culvert.
- A Supplemental Comment will be sent to the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding the future lot lines.

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve the Summary Ruling Application with Special conditions and standard conditions. Mr. Fincham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Application(s) for receipt:
None

IV: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

1. 0 Ives Court.

Ms. Mucoli gave an overview of the violation of the fill that was brought into the upland review area. The area where fill was put was created as a staging area where the owner planned to store catch basins, pipes and other material for the construction of the Ives Court Road. She added the adjacent stream is not being disturbed. She didn't notice any sediments runoff into the stream.

Members expressed concerns over the unapproved fill brought to the site in the upland review area.

Mr. Bishop stated that that typically construction and demolition fill is contaminated with heavy metals. He added that even if the owner claims that the fill is not in the wetlands, the C&D fill wouldn't just pollute the surface water but would leach into underground water as well.

Discussion ensued, and the members required removal of the fill within thirty days before the weather gets colder.

Ms. Baker inquired if the applicant had presented the staging area during the prior application of Ives court road improvements. Ms. Mucoli said the staging area was not submitted during the prior approval of the road improvement application.

The owner and Artel engineering will work with Mr. Johnson during the process of fill removal. The applicant will also submit a revision application to the Board regarding an approval for a staging area.

V: Other Business:

1. 257 Peaceable Street – Planting Plan

Mr. Jewell informed the Board that homeowner would like to revise the planting as approved by the Board during the pond dredging application. He added the pond was dredged as per the application but the homeowner would like to revisit the planting buffer that was one of the conditions stated on the resolution.

Mr. Logan, an ecologist, stated that the pond restoration has greatly enhanced aquatic life. He added that in his professional experience, since there was no construction involved, lack of a buffer would not be detrimental to the wetlands.

Mr. Bishop expressed concerns with the no buffer proposal. He said that the board always supports the best management practices and that would be at least a buffer of fifteen feet.

Board suggested a site inspection to help determine if some of the pond edge could be left mowed. They will assess the proposal submitted by the homeowner at the next meeting.

Sitewalk is scheduled for Sunday November 05, 2023.

2. 20 Regan Road – Performance Bond Release

Mr. Johnson updated the board and shared pictures of the current site, including the backyard and the culvert.

Members noted that as per the condition, they questioned the clear demarcation of the lawn and the wetlands in the pictures. They also stated that the rip rapping at the culvert seems to be overwhelming which may hinder the full functionality. They also said that the homeowner should submit some kind of the maintenance agreement to the town.

Discussion continued to next meeting.

3. CACIWC

Board discussed the upcoming CACIWC meeting. The meeting is scheduled on November 11 and in order for Board members to sign up as members, the town's membership needs to be renewed. Mr. Johnson will confirm the membership details so that members can sign up for the meeting.

4. Tracey Miller

Ms. Miller was not in attendance, but the Board expressed gratitude for her excellent and professional service as a Board member over the past four years. She will be stepping down after the upcoming election.

VI: Approval of Minutes:

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

Mr. Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VII: Adjourn

Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM

Submitted by

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary
(Via Video Recording)