



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 23, 2023

Members present: Susan Baker, chair; Tim Bishop, vice chair; Alan Pilch, secretary; Tracey Miller (Joined at 7:08 PM); David Smith (joined at 7:03PM); Carson Fincham

Members absent: Chris Phelps

Also present: Caleb Johnson (IW Agent); Aarti Paranjape Recording Secretary; Robert Jewell, Craig Studer.

I. Call to order:

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

II: Application(s) for Discussion:

1.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 the plans uploaded show the planting as approved prior by the Board. He cleared the confusion which the Board had from last meeting, stating that there is no change in the plants listed. Initially B&G were going to make the parking space changes which would have involved removing of trees. He confirmed that no trees are being removed and hence no change from the prior approval, the only change is in the size of the trees and shrubs. The trees are now of 3 calipers instead of 5 caliper and the shrubs are 2-3 gallons as opposed to 5 gallons.

Mr. Studer also confirmed that the reduced size of the plants will now be installed manually. Given that the planting is in wetlands, the use of machines is avoided and choosing the smaller sizes makes it practical to install them by hand.

Mr. Pilch expressed concern that since the sizes of plants are now smaller, they would be more prone to damage by deer. He suggested deer fencing.

Mr. Jewell stated that they will look into it, but also since the plants are bonded, they will make sure that they survive.

Ms. Miller confirmed if any of the trees are being removed. Mr. Jewell reiterated that none of the plants are being removed. Mr. Studer commented the only plants removed are the invasive species. Mr. Miller expressed concern over the loss of canopy and that since the sizes of the plants are now smaller, it will be better to plant more and increase the quantity of plants.

Mr. Jewell said that the owner due to the financial restrictions is not comfortable to increase the number of plants.

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve the Summary Ruling Application with standard conditions. Mr. Pilch seconded. Ms. Miller voted nay. Motion carried 5-1-0.

The Publication date is March 02, 2023 and the effective date is March 03, 2023.

III: Application(s) for Receipt:

1. **IW-23-3, 87 Silver Hill Road**, Summary Ruling Application for construction of Single Family home, septic, pool and associated work within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner: Bennet & Gianna Velocci. Applicant: Michael Mazzucco.
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/90687>
2. **IW-23-4, 127 Wilton Rd East**, Summary Ruling Application to remedy the violation involving site work at the stream banks and wetlands areas. Owner/Applicant: Chris DiStefano.
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/89948>
3. **IW-23-5, 100 Danbury Road Unit C**, Revision to a Summary Ruling to increase mechanical areas to the building within the upland review area. Owner: Ridgefield Apartments Inc. Applicant: Robert Jewell.
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/90787>

Mr. Smith Motioned to receive the above three applications. Ms. Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Site walk is scheduled at March 05 and discussion on March 09, 2023.

IV: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

None

V: Other Business:

1. **Caleb Johnson**- Appointment of the Inland Wetlands Agent
Ms. Baker introduced the new wetland Agent. Mr. Johnson gave a brief introduction about his credentials and experience. He informed that he has completed the required DEEP Municipal Wetlands Agency training program.

Mr. Pilch motioned to nominate Mr. Johnson as the Town's Inland Wetland Agent. Ms. Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 162 Old West Mountain- Restoration plan

Ms. Baker informed that the applicant has submitted the restoration plan and once the estimate is submitted to the office a bond will be posted.

VI: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** February 09, 2023

Ms. Miller motioned and Mr. Pilch seconded to approve the above minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII: Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:44 P.M.

Submitted by Aarti Paranjape,

Recording Secretary