



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.

February 22, 2024

Members present: Susan Baker, chair; Carson Fincham, Tim Bishop (left at 7:43PM) vice chair; Ben Nissim, David Smith, Chris Phelps

Members absent: Alan Pilch

Also present: Caleb Johnson, IW Agent; Robert Jewell

Call to order:

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

II: Application(s) for receipt:

1. **IW-24-4; 151 North St:** Summary Ruling application foundation for new addition within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. *Owner: Catherine and Sarah Baumann. Applicant: Jason Ferrandino. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.*
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/93993>

Sitewalk scheduled on March 10 and discussion on March 14.

2. **IW-24-5; 0 West Branchville Road and Route 7:** Plenary Ruling application for Town Bridge Replacement # 07031 at Depot Road over Norwalk River at the intersection of Route 7 within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. *Owner: Town Of Ridgefield-Bridge 07031. Applicant: Greg Gerrish. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and Public Hearing.*
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/85616>

Sitewalk on March 24 and Public Hearing on March 28, 2024.

3. **IW-24-7; 58 Prospect Ridge Rd.:** Summary Ruling application for partial abandonment of accessway and remove the drainage pipe to allow free flow of intermittent watercourse on 58 Prospect Ridge and 62 Prospect Ridge properties within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. *Owner: Thomas M. Montanari. Applicant: Robert Jewell. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.*
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/95573>

Sitewalk scheduled on March 10 and discussion on March 14.

Mr. Phelps motioned to receive above three applications with the discussion, Public hearing, and sitewalk dates as stated above for each application.

Mr. Nissim seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

III: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

1. 51 Blackman Road

Mr. Johnson said that he visited the site to check when Mr. Bishop had called for the mulch deposited near the wetlands, but due heavy snow he could not notice any mulch deposition.

Mr. Bishop said he would guess around five-six cubic yards of wood chips in the wetlands area is deposited. Once the snow melts, Mr. Johnson will visit the site and update the Board.

2. WV-24-2 824 Ethan Allen Highway-Golf Performance Center

Mr. Johnson updated the Board that he noticed deposition of sand pile near the wetlands and watercourse. He said although the silt fence is installed around the watercourse, but due to the regulated activity of deposition, he issued a violation notice, though no cease and desist was ordered. No work has started yet.

Mr. Jewell informed that the sand was deposited for the maintenance of bunker. The contractor installed at the wrong spot. He added that if Board instead of issuing cease and desist will let the applicant remove the sand and stage in the upland review area. He said he will work with Mr. Johnson to do the right thing.

Discussion ensued among the members if removal of the sand from the wetlands and depositing in the upland review would be appropriate. Members expressed concern that in an event of storm, the sand could end up in the watercourse. It was discussed if removal of sand will disturb the wetlands area or leaving status quo is appropriate until proper erosion measures are followed.

Mr. Jewell said that the applicant will take proper permits and will contact Mr. Johnson.

IV: Other Business:

1. Violation fees

Mr. Bishop brought to attention of the members to discuss the violation fees and how it should be handled. He added that at his work in Fairfield they revised the fees for violation and they charge 2-3 times the application fees as penalties for violations.

Members agreed to discuss the fee structure. Affirmative steps should be taken to define the penalties.

Mr. Nissim said he will look into other town fees regarding violations and present to Board.

It was discussed that in order to inform the residents and contractors a press release and update on the website with the revised fees schedule will be helpful.

V: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** February 08, 2024
Mr. Smith motioned and Mr. Phelps seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried 5-0-0.

VI: Adjourn

Hearing no further Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:57PM

Submitted by

Aarti Paranjape

Recording Secretary