



Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

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

December 10, 2019

Members Present: Susan Baker (Vice Chair)
Tracey Miller
Alan Pilch
Kory Salomone (Secretary)
Patricia Sesto (Chair)
Dave Tatge

Members Absent: Tim Bishop

Also Present: Beth Peyser, Inland Wetlands Agent & Conservation Enforcement Officer
Aarti Paranjape, Office Administrator/ Recording Secretary

At 7:32 p.m. Chair Ms. Sesto, called the meeting to order. The members of the Board identified themselves for record.

PUBLIC HEARING

Item I: #2019-065-SR: Summary Ruling Application per Section 7.5 of the Town of Ridgefield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations for expansion of a parking lot and associated activity within the regulated upland review area of wetlands ,including landscaping, retaining walls for a property located at **Assessor's ID E15-0191** in the RA zone. *Statutorily received on September 24, 2019.Owner/Applicant: Town of Ridgefield. Authorized Agent: Jacob Muller. To schedule a site walk and Public hearing.*

Ms. Sesto read the Item Number I for the record.

Members of the Board acknowledged the Site walk attendance.

All seven members were present at the Site walk held on Sunday December 08, 2019.

Applicant Mr. Steve Sullivan, P.E. from CCA Engineers, and JacobMuller, Town of Ridgefield.

Mr. Muller submitted the certified receipts for the the notification of Public hearing to 100 feet abutters.

Mr. Sullivan said that Town is proposing an expansion of the existing Governor Street Parking lot. The exiting lot has 63 spaces. The proposed plans have 56 additional parking spaces to minimize the grading and walls on the northern part of the project.

Mr. Muller added that on Board's recommendation, the parking spots were reduced on the revised plans.

Mr. Sullivan said the plans show erosion control measures including a double row of silt fence, stockpile area, construction entrance and catch basin filters. Mr. Sullivan said that revised plans will show detention basins. He said that Town has retained Ms. Kate Throckmorton from ELS for ecological and biological assessment.

Ms. Sesto inquired the Applicant to let the Board know why this particular location was chosen by the Town. Mr. Muller said that in the past the prior Town Engineer and Mr. Marconi had looked at several places to build a parking garage on parking lot, and came to the conclusion that the proposed area will be in close proximity to Main Street and the town center without procuring additional land. The additional parking spots will be helpful for the downtown visitors to park.

First Selectman, Mr. Marconi added that few studies were performed to review the parking situation around the downtown area. This parking will be designated more to the employees working in the businesses and offices in the downtown area, which should ultimately open up the parking spots on the Main Street for the visitors. He added that this is the only site which Town owns and hence the only location for possible expansion.

Ms. Sesto suggested a functional analysis of the ditch by ELS will be helpful.

Ms. Miller said that due to the significant activity next to the wetlands that the application be raised to Plenary rather than Summary. She said that the site happened to be in the purview of Natural Diversity Inventory Database. She added that the additional biological review will be crucial.

Ms. Miller motioned to raise the application to the Plenary. Mr. Tatge seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Pilch asked about the feasible and prudent alternatives, he said that the south west corner of the site is not utilized to expand the lot. He added that he agrees with the comments submitted by the Peer review engineer.

Ms. Miller said that the peer review also commented on the plans to show the trees to be removed.

Mr. Sullivan said that the current storm water system shows the catch basin but the system will be revised.

The continuation date will be announced at the end on the meeting when the Board will schedule the official 2020 meeting Calendar.

Hearing no further, Ms. Sesto, Chair adjourned the Public Hearing at 8:09PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape

APPROVED/ REVISED MINUTES

AGENDA

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December 10, 2019

Members Present: Susan Baker (Vice Chair)
Tracey Miller
Alan Pilch
Kory Salomone (Secretary)
Patricia Sesto (Chair)
Dave Tatge

Members Absent: Tim Bishop

Also Present: Beth Peyser, Inland Wetlands Agent & Conservation Enforcement Officer
Aarti Paranjape, Office Administrator/ Recording Secretary

- 1. #2019-065-SR:** Summary Ruling Application per Section 7.5 of the Town of Ridgefield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations for expansion of a parking lot and associated activity within the regulated upland review area of wetlands ,including landscaping, retaining walls for a property located at **Assessor's ID E15-0191** in the RA zone. *Statutorily received on September 24, 2019. Owner/Applicant: Town of Ridgefield. Authorized Agent: Jacob Muller.*

Plenary Ruling continued to January 09, 2020.

- 2. #2019-070-SR:** Summary Ruling Application per Section 7.5 of the Town of Ridgefield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations for a pond dredging for a property located at **257 Peaceable Street** in the RAA zone. *Statutorily received on October 15, 2019. Owner: Robert Daher. Applicant: New England Aquatic Services LLC. To schedule a site walk and discussion.*

Ms. Sesto read the item number 2 for the record.

Board identified the members who were present at the site walk on Sunday December 08, 2019. All seven members were present.

Mr. Matthew Vogt of New England Aquatics Services LLC presented the plans.

He discussed the plans for the pond dredging. He said the material excavated from the pond will be used to grade the steep slope along the hillside. He said that the pond has lot of sediments due to which at some places the depth is just a foot. The estimated amount to be excavated will be 1900 cubic yards. The pond will be dredged around 3 feet deep.

There will no negative impact on the vegetation and buffer area on the edge of the pond.

Ms. Sesto suggested that the sediment curtain should be at the southern ended.

Mr Vogt added that some of the cattails will be removed.

Ms. Miller stated that cattails support wildlife. She added that this pond could be calcareous, and several species in the pond could be protective. She said that inventory of the plant life will help understand what kind of wildlife is being supported by these cattails and other plant life available in this pond. She stated that the biological evaluation will be helpful.

Mr. Vogt said he plans to leave the shelves in the lower portion, to help reduce overall dredging.

Ms. Sesto agreed that the fifteen feet emergent shelf is good for protecting vegetation. She said the naturally vegetated area is healthy for the pond. A twenty foot planted riparian buffer is suggested.

Mr. Pilch said that the applicant should submit an erosion and control measures.

The Board members requested to submit the plans by an biological consultant and landscape architect at the next meeting.

Summary Ruling continued to January 09, 2020.

3. 2020 Meeting calendar. % Chair

Board members discussed the 2020 calendar. Ms. Peyser discussed the members the availability of the conference room. After discussion it was agreed that Board will hold meetings on second and Fourth Thursday of the month. The meeting will start at 7:00PM. The site walks were scheduled on Sunday before the Thursday meeting. The site walk will be held at 8:30 AM.

The Board decided to hold the Aquifer Protection Agency (APA) meeting quarterly in 2020. The APA meetings will be on first meeting of the month quarterly. Ms. Peyser will inform the Board of the responsibilities of the APA at the first APA meeting.

The Board members announced the continuation dates for the two pending applications. Both applications will be heard by the Board on January 09, 2020.

Mr. Marconi briefed the Board about the initial meeting about Fox Hill Dam issue in front on the Town. He said that National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has informed the Town that the Fox Hill dam should either be repaired or completely removed. He added that the cost of Dam repair is approximately six million dollars and the removal will cost around three million. He said the Board doesn't have to make a decision. The Town is still discussing with NRCS and will update the Board.

The Board discussed the By-Laws updates. The Board agreed that Ms. Peyser will send the proposed changes to the Board members to review. Ms. Baker and Mr. Pilch had the edits, which will be sent to Ms. Peyser. Ms. Peyser will confirm the edits with the Town Attorney for the By-Laws, before the final review by Board members.

Ms. Miller stated a typo in the Wetlands regulation. The Board members acknowledged the typo and agreed that Ms. Peyser will confirm with the Town Attorney for the guidance to handle the typo in the wetlands regulation.

Ms. Sesto stated that the Sitewalk minutes shall be recorded with the Town Clerk.

BOARD WALKS

No walks were scheduled.

REQUESTS FOR BOND RELEASES/REDUCTION

No bond releases.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Hydrology report for Governor Street Parking lot.
2. Alternatives considered for the Governor Street Parking lot.
3. Minutes for November 26, 2019 meeting.

MINUTES

For approval:

For distribution: November 26, 2019

PUBLIC HEARINGS

January 09, 2020

- **#2019-065-SR**, Plenary Ruling Governor Street Parking lot, TOR
- **#2019-070-SR**, Summary Ruling, 257 Peaceable Street, Robert Daher

Mr. Tatge motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Baker seconded. Motion carried 6-0

Hearing no further discussion, the Chair Ms. Sesto adjourned the Meeting at: 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aarti Paranjape