



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

May 26, 2022

Members present: Patricia Sesto, chair (recused and left at 8:00PM); Alan Pilch, secretary; Tim Bishop, Susan Baker (left at 7:38), Vice chair, David Smith, Tracey Miller,

Member Absent: Chris Phelps.

Also present: Andrew P. Hally, wetland agent; Aarti Paranjape, office administrator; Martha Rogers, Mark Amler, Alan Hanley, Charlie Taney, Phillip Katz.

I: Call to order

Ms. Sesto called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

II: Applications for Discussion:

1. (Contd.)IW-22-19, 162 Old West Mountain Road, Summary Ruling application to correct a violation of cutting and depositing cut trees/ branches within wetlands and upland review area of wetlands. *Owner/Applicant: Martha Rogers and Richard Cavett, Trustees.*

<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/86880>

Mr. Hally gave a brief update of the nature of violation. He described the wetlands delineation and stated trees canopies had been trimmed off, with some trees being cut back substantially. The result is areas of significant tree canopy loss. The trees included were, maples, birch, poplars, black cherry, and ash.

Ms. Rogers said that their property has a scenic easement and own the parcel adjacent to their 162 Old West Mountain Road that is located down gradient. In order to protect the scenic view their tree company cut the tree canopies. She added they will cooperate and will replace any trees, which will help protect the wetlands and the damage, done due to cutting of trees and canopies.

Ms. Miller inquired if the applicant can explain how much canopy was lost in order to suggest mitigation. She added that wetlands flagging would be helpful.



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Mr. Hally commented that approximately thirty percent of the canopy has been lost in the affected area of one quarter acre.

Discussion ensued. Board members agreed the applicant needs to consult a licensed arborist who will generate a map of the trees lost and the canopies cut. The arborist should also make recommendation to replace the trees and suggest cleanup plan. The trees should be native species.

Ms. Baker commented that at last meeting the members inquired about the debris in the wetlands area and what would be the best practice to remediate for the health of wetlands.

Ms. Rogers agreed to comply and work with the Board to come with an agreement and a plan, which will work to save the wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Discussion continued to June 09, 2022.

Ms. Baker left the meeting at 7:38P.M.

III: Application for Receipt:

None

IV: Other Business:

1. Rainbow Lake Sediment removal. % Douglas Carroll.

Members of the Rainbow Lake association, Mr. Amler and Mr. Hanley, addressed the Board to request a modification of their open 2020 permit to expand the area of dredging. Ms. Sesto referred to the regulations and the absence of a provision to modify a permit. She stated the Board would have to find the proposal generally fits within the scope of the existing permit and can be considered a field change, or a new permit will be needed.

The area to be dredged constitutes and fourth area. The methodology is the same and the dewatering bag would be placed on a residential property. It was unclear if the dewatering bag would be placed entirely on a lawned wetland or if more naturally vegetated areas would be impacted. There was no plan for restoration.

Members stated that they would like to get a better idea of the work proposed including the placement of dewatering bags by visiting the site prior to the next meeting.



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Board members agreed to conduct a sitewalk and to continue discussion to June 09, 2022.

2. Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT). % Mr. Taney- President- NVRT

Ms. Sesto recused herself and left the meeting at 8:00P.M.

Mr. Taney gave a brief overview of the plans for the trail proposed by NRVT. NRVT is responsible for preconstruction. The group met with Ridgefield staff, wetland agent and Director of Planning & Zoning and Department of Public works and feedback was greatly appreciated. They would like the feedback from the wetlands Board before they finalize their plans for the trials.

Mr. Katz gave three conceptual alternatives for the trails. One of the option involves a construction of the boardwalk. He gave an example of the construction of the Boardwalk using helical pipes.

The proposed trail will have a stone dust, which is ten feet wide.

The group would like to construct a trail, which will have minimum impact to wetlands at the same time away from the residential properties to avoid the screenings and privacy. He said the group is concerned about the clearing of the wetlands in order to construct the trails.

Mr. Pilch commented that he would support the option where the impact to the wetlands is minimal at the same time neighborhood acceptability. He inquired the time of the year, which will be best suited for construction.

Mr. Katz commented that the work would not involve any heavy machinery.

Mr. Taney stated that the contractor hired will be working with the group and will perform work during the best time when trees are dormant.

Ms. Miller asked to contact the NDDDB database and to work on their recommendations.

Mr. Bishop inquired about the elevated boardwalk and its suspension over water.

Board acknowledged and support the project that once the trail is build it will be a great asset to the public to enjoy the diversity in the nature.



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Group thanked the members for their support and time.

V. Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** May 12, 2022

Mr. Pilch motioned to postpone the approval of above minutes to next meeting due to lack of quorum. Ms. Miller seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

VI. Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Mr. Pilch adjourned the meeting at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary