

Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/ REVISED MINUTES

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

May 14, 2020

Members present: Patricia Sesto, Chairman, Susan Baker, Vice Chairman, Kory Salomone, Secretary, Tim Bishop (Joined at 7:02PM), Tracey Miller, Alan Pilch, Dave Tatge

Also Present: Beth Peyser, Compliance Officer, Aarti Paranjape, Office Administrator, Matthew Vogt, Michael Mazzucco, Jack Kace, Ridgefield Conservation Commission

I. Call to Order

Chair Sesto called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Ms. Sesto explained the procedure for the Zoom meeting for Inland Wetlands Board.

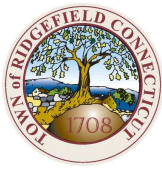
II. Old Business:

1. #2020-010-SR: Summary Ruling Application per Section 7.5 of the Town of Ridgefield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations for a pond dredging (XR: #2019-070-SR) for a property located at 257 Peaceable Street in the RAA zone. Owner: Robert Daher. Applicant: New England Aquatic Services LLC.

Ms. Sesto asked the members who visited the site to identify themselves. All seven members stated they visited the site.

Mr. Vogt presented the application to dredge the pond. He said the proposal is to remove an average of three feet of sediment, leaving an emergent shelf of fifteen feet near the southern edge of the pond. The dredging will reduce the overgrowth of cattails.

On the request of the Board members, the ecological study was conducted by REMA Ecological Services LLC, to determine the wildlife species present. Mr. Vogt stated the dredging will significantly help the survival of wildlife. He said that due to the shallow depth of the pond, the temperature of the water during the summer months is high which has a negative impact on the lifecycles of the wild species. The total volume of dredge material to be removed will be approximately 1900 cubic yards, which will be pumped through the geotubes. The material will be left to dry for six months and then spread on the property.



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Ms. Sesto inquired if there is any planting is planned near the pond. She asked Ms. Peyser if the applicant has provided the additional information which Board required to submit when the applicant had originally presented the applicant.

Ms. Baker asked about the duckweed growth and the effects of dredging. Mr. Vogt said that the dredging will help due to the cooler water.

Ms. Miller asked about the Natural Diversity Database, noting the site is within an identified area of concern. Ms. Miller also commented to contact DEEP and check why the property is shown on NDDDB database. Mr. Vogt responded that REMA concluded the amphibians and reptiles will not be significantly impacted and no endangered species were found in the study. He said the ecological survey didn't show any calcium rich pond information.

Ms Peyser added that the REMA report didn't reference the site being in the Natural Diversity Database.

Ms. Sesto suggested a condition of approval could be added requiring the applicant contact the DEEP and check why the property is in the NDDDB database and follow any recommendations.

Mr. Pilch questioned the stabilization. He said that a planting plan should be included to trap the sediments. He added a native vegetative buffer, 15-25 feet in depth, at the edge of the lawn and pond would be beneficial to the pond. Ms. Sesto also supported the idea of the vegetative buffer.

Mr. Vogt agreed plantings on the west side of the pond will help and will include the planting after the dredging is completed.

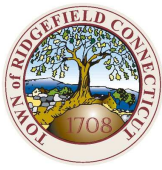
Hearing no further comments from the Board, applicant or public, Ms. Sesto suggested, if the board is inclined to approve the application, the approval should include two special conditions along with the standard conditions:

1. The applicant shall contact CT DEEP regarding the Natural Diversity Database before the commencement of work. Recommendations by CT DEEP on what considerations would be considered part of this approval.
2. A planting plan measuring 15-25 foot in depth should be included for the western side of the pond. This can include a nonplanted space for a viewing deck.

Mr. Bishop asked when the work will commence because the dredging might impact the lifecycle of the wildlife species.

Mr. Vogt said that they plan to start the work in fall but will take the NDDDB recommendations into consideration once they are stated by DEEP.

Ms. Baker motioned to approve the application with 2 special conditions suggested by Ms. Sesto, along with the standard conditions of approval, Mr. Pilch seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.



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Adopted date of May 14, Publication date of May 19 and Effective date of May 20, 2020.

2. #2020-012-PR: Plenary Ruling Application per Section 7.6 of the Town of Ridgefield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations for installation of a drainage pipe for a driveway crossing wetlands for a construction of a single family residence at a property located at 20 Regan Road in the RAAA zone. Owner/Applicant: Rock Harbor Builders LLC.

Ms. Sesto said this application is a public hearing and proper notification was made, however the agenda failed to identify the application review as such. Accordingly, the hearing will not close this evening.

Members Baker, Bishop, Miller, Pilch, Salomone, Sesto identified themselves as having visited the site.

Ms. Peyser read the list of documents received for the above application and the legal notice.

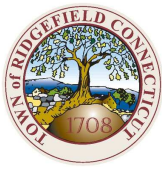
Mr. Mazzucco, P.E, presented the application. He stated the original subdivision application was approved in 1999-2000. There is a section of wetlands which runs along the width of the parcel, adjacent to the road. The wetland boundary shown comes from Henry Moller and was associated with the subdivision that created the lot. The applicant will submit a new wetlands delineation report, per request of the Board members. The wetlands line will be flagged, and the plans updated. Mr. Mazzucco is proposing a 15-inch pipe to be put where the driveway crossed the stream.

Ms. Sesto questioned the erosion and sedimentation control plan. On the north side of the development there is silt fence but nothing near the driveway. Water diversions will be appropriate during construction. She said the long driveway should have drainage of some kind to avoid the runoff from driveway directly into the wetlands.

Ms. Miller asked for confirmation that the wetlands will be flagged. She also stated if the stream should also be located as well. She said that the site shows up on NDDDB, and applicant should check with DEEP to determine why the property is located on the NDDDB. Mr. Mazzucco agreed to look into the Natural Diversity Database.

Ms. Peyser stated in the event the soil scientist identifies a watercourse, the upland review area would be increased to 75 feet. Ms. Sesto stated she is a qualified professional and the drainage meets the state criteria of a watercourse; having defined bed and banks, flow for longer than a particular storm, evidence of scour and alluvial deposits, and hydrophytic vegetation.

Ms. Sesto added that construction sequence needs to include the culvert installation. She also stated that the extent of lawn should be clearly demarcated.



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Mr. Pilch agreed that there should be depiction of the clearing of lawn from the wetlands boundary. He added that using an open box culvert would be helpful piping the stream, so the natural watercourse is maintained.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential to relocate the existing stonewall to slow flow towards the wetland and serve as the limit of lawn demarcation. Mr. Mazzucco indicated he did not anticipate the wall was going to be altered, but will discuss the comments and concerns of the Board members with the applicant.

Hearing no further comments from Board members and public, Ms. Sesto continued the Public hearing to May 28, 2020.

Ms. Sesto said at the next meeting, the applicant should have following information:

- a. Flag the wetlands
- b. Increase Erosion and sediment control measure for the driveway.
- c. Add the culvert installation to construction sequence
- d. Depict the upland review area as 75 feet off of the watercourse
- e. Provide a landscaping plan
- f. Check the Natural Diversity Database
- g. Evaluate the use of an open-bottom box culvert
- h. Determine if the stonewall can be relocated.

The public hearing is continued to May 28, 2020.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Pilch pointed out a few typos that were to be corrected.

Mr. Salomone motioned, and Ms. Miller seconded to approve the Minutes for January 23, March 12, April 16, 2020, as amended. Motion carried 7-0-0.

4. Adjourn

Ms. Sesto asked Ms. Peyser to update the board on the status of the amendments of the regulations. Ms. Peyser stated Town Counsel has edited the proposed revisions. Once the Chair approves the edits and they are distributed to the Board, a public hearing date can be scheduled.

Hearing no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary