



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

June 23, 2022

Members present: Patricia Sesto, chair; Alan Pilch, secretary; Tim Bishop, Tracey Miller, David Smith.

Member Absent: Susan Baker, vice chair; Chris Phelps,

Also present: Andrew P. Hally, wetland agent; Aarti Paranjape, office administrator; David DiCamillo, Martha Rogers, Lee Bussinger, Todd Flashner

I: Call to order

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

II: Application for Discussion:

1.(Contd.) IW-22-8, 56 Shadow Lake Road, Summary ruling application for the corrective action involving grading and improvements within the upland review area. *65 days to render a decision is April 30, 2022.Extension granted until June 23, 2022.Owner/Applicant: David DiCamillo.*

<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/86073>

Mr. DeCamillo gave an overview of the updated planting plan submitted by Mary Jaehnig. He added that the line of 2-3 man boulders delineate would block the wetlands. Fifteen-foot buffer planting is proposed between these boulder wall and wetlands.

Mr. Pilch suggested moving the boulder wall further down towards the edge of lawn.

Ms. Miller stated that the Echinacea should be substituted with Rudbeckia.

Mr. Bishop inquired about the removal of chips and its placement.

Mr. Decamillo said the wood chips would be hauled away and placed closer to the house near the upper boulder wall.

Members agreed to spread a thin layer of wood chips in the wooded area.

Following conditions were stated:

- Plantings completed by September 15, 2022.
- 2-3 Man Boulders, fifteen feet apart to be extended to the lawn edge.



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- Wood chips to be removed and spread in the wooded area, and consult with Staff for the placement of the wood chips.

Mr. Bishop Motioned to approve minutes Summary Ruling Application. Ms. Miller Seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Publication date is June 30, 2022 with effective date July 01, 2022.

2. (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>

Ms. Rogers updated the Board. Since the last meeting a report was submitted by a biologist and an arborist. The biologist suggested leaving the debris and the cut trees in the same state as this provides a good habitat for the wildlife. The arborist suggested planting low-height canopy trees like Sassafras, which will provide a great canopy but would not grow tall to block the view easement. The work will be done in the dormant months.

Discussion ensued as how the restoration project would proceed. Two standing trunks were identified as being aesthetically undesirable for the neighboring property. The Board conceded these could be cut without notable loss of habitat. Otherwise, the slash will be pulled from the area and downed trunks will be cut and left in place.

Ms. Sesto reiterated that the Board's jurisdiction is limited to wetlands and the Open Space restoration should be discussed with Conservation Commission.

Ms. Miller commended on the planting plan. She said sassafras is a good choice and the applicant can mix few other medium height shade trees, such as black tupelo and red maple. These are well suited to the wetlands.

Applicant will address the violation and submit the planting plan which will include number of trees and sizes of trees shrubs. Planting mix of understory trees like shadblows, dogwoods will be a restoration plan focusing on the violation.

The applicant will submit a plan at the next meeting that focuses on the short term restoration to include two cut trees coming down, slash will be removed in winter, and a planting plan which will include understory trees and mid-sized trees addressing the areas which was cleared.



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Applicant granted the extension to continue the discussion until next schedule meeting in July 14.

3. IW-22-23, 131 Seth Low Mountain Road, Summary Ruling application for violation of excavating, grubbing and filling within the wetlands and a corrective application involving remediation including planting and stabilization. *Owner/Applicant: Lee Bussinger.*

Mr. Bussinger gave an overview of the nature of violation. Overgrown nonnative invasive plants and fallen dead trees that were obstructing the waterways were cleared. The proposed restoration planting includes red maples and viburnums. The purpose of excavating pond was to remove the dead trees and muck obstructing the waterflow. The dredged material was left on the edge to dry out. A soil scientist has not been consulted.

Ms. Miller suggested hiring an expert for the guidance for improving the health of wetlands. The expert can guide with the plantings and seed mixes and remove the excavated material from the pond.

Mr. Bishop suggested a buffer between the water and the house, which includes shade trees.

Ms. Sesto said that she would like to see before and after pictures on the area, as what was there and what was removed.

Mr. Pilch also suggested the riparian buffer near the stream and the road.

Board agreed to continue their review to July 28, 2022 to allow the applicant time to hire an expert and submit a restoration plan.

III: Application(s) for Receipt:

No applications for receipt.

IV: Other Business:

1. Show Cause Hearing-

- Cease & Desist Order-40 Mountain Road- Mr. DeRoma

Mr. Hally read the documents into the record. A cease and desist order was sent via certified mail and regular mail to the property owner, Mr. DeRoma, on June 16, 2022.



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Mr. Hally gave a brief overview of the nature of violation, which involves construction of patio and garden and associated work within the upland review area.

Mr. DeRoma agreed to the violation and stated he is in the process of submitting a corrective action application. He has the soil report from Mary Jaehnig and will work with Ms. Jaehnig for the restoration plan. Board set a deadline to submit a corrective action application for June 26, 2022.

V: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** June 09, 2022

Mr. Pilch stated an edit on page four where he asked the applicant if any grading was involved and not degrading.

Ms. Miller Motioned to approve minutes as amended. Mr. Smith Seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

- **Sitewalk Meeting:** June 12, 2022

Mr. Pilch corrected the time sitewalk meeting adjourned was 8:46AM

Mr. Bishop Motioned to approve minutes as amended. Mr. Pilch Seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

VI: Adjourn

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Sesto asked for public comments

Mr. Flashner spoke regarding the violation application for 162 Old West Mountain Road. He expressed concerns with the biologist and the arborist reports submitted by the applicant. He said that it would be best if the cleanup is done at the site of violation. He advocated for having at least four of the standing trunks be cut. The two agreed on previously are not the only ones he can see from his home.

Ms. Sesto advised Mr. Flashner of his option to hire a biologist and submit a report if he thinks the applicant's biologist doesn't have the best set of solutions.



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Ms. Sesto also commented that since the jurisdiction of the Board is within the wetland boundary, any issues concerning the open space more broadly should be addressed to Conservation Commission.

Mr. Hally mentioned that all the correspondence submitted by Mr. Flashner has been shared with Conservation Commission and posted on the online permit portal.

Hearing no further business, Ms. Sesto adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary