



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

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

April 13, 2023

Members present: Susan Baker, chair; Tim Bishop, vice chair; David Smith; Carson Fincham; Chris Phelps; Tracey Miller

Members absent: Carson Fincham; Alan Pilch (due to technical difficulties)

Also present: Caleb Johnson (IW Agent); Chris DiStefano; Tracy Chalifoux; Steven Danzer; Shannon Williams, Jim Liptack (Conservation Commission)

I. Call to order:

Ms. Baker called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

II: Application(s) for Discussion:

- 1. (Contd.) IW-23-4, 127 Wilton Rd East, Summary Ruling Application to remedy the violation involving site work at the stream banks and wetlands areas.**
Owner/Applicant: Chris DiStefano.
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/89948>

Mr. DiStefano reviewed the mitigation planting plan prepared by Landform Design.

Ms. Miller asked if the coir logs could be shown on the plan; after discussion it was decided that note #4 on the planting plan was specific enough.

Ms. Baker asked how sections of rip rap would be removed to allow for planting in the area that they currently cover.

Ms. Miller asked if *Cotoneaster dammeri* is native? Mr. Bishop checked online and confirmed it is not native, so Ms. Miller suggested adding *Carex* in place of the *Cotoneaster*.

Mr. DiStefano said that would be okay.

Ms. Miller also asked if the *Calimagrostis* could be replaced with *Panicum*, and increased to 20 plants. Mr. DiStefano agreed to that as well.

The Board stated the following conditions of approval:

- 1) Explain in more details in notes how plantings are going to be done within rip rap section.
- 2) Replace *Cotoneaster* with 30 *Carex*, spread out.
- 3) Replace *Calimagrostis* with 20 *Panicum*.

4) Provide updated planting plan by April 20, 2023 to the Inland Wetlands office.

Mr. Bishop motioned and Mr. Phelps seconded to approve the Summary Ruling Application with Standard and Special conditions. Motion carried unanimously.

Publication date is April 20, 2023 with effective date of April 21, 2023.

2. IW-23-8: 36 Old Mill Road; Summary Ruling Application for pond dredging, construction of sediment forebays, stream armoring and mitigation plantings for wetlands enhancement. *Owner: Phillip Pilla. Applicant: Tracy Chalifoux.*
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/90835>

Ms. Chalifoux presented the plans for mechanical dredging of the pond. There will be approximately 1600 cubic yards of sediment removed, some to be spread over an area to the west of the pond, and the remainder removed from the property. Six trees will need to be removed from the disposal area. She also noted an Aquarion water line that runs on the east side of the property that will need to be carefully avoided (Aquarion has been notified). The intake area where a stream enters the pond will be stabilized and a forebay created. Stabilization to include some armoring of the stream. There are some sinkholes on the north edge of the pond to be filled during planting on that side (carried over from the plans for the recently installed pool).

Discussion ensued. Mr. Bishop asked about the depth of fill where dredge material is to be placed, if the area would become manicured lawn, and about armoring of the intake stream. Ms. Chalifoux answered that the final area would not have more than a 3:1 slope, the idea was to have it be a lawn area, and the woodland buffer between the area and the pond would be kept. The armoring of the intake stream would be done using large boulders, not building a wall, will have space and plantings between boulders.

Ms Miller suggested using a wetland mix on lawn area rather than lawn grass. Given situation in pond with invasives, she also suggested adding more buffer on north side. Also discussed use of boulders in the stream and within buffers, methods of handling water velocity without armoring.

Mr. Danzer noted that the sediment problem is coming from the stream, not from elsewhere on the property.

Mr. Bishop noted that properties to the south of the pond had lawn right up to the watercourse and pond on the south side. Perhaps neighbors could be asked to do some buffer plantings.

Discussion will be continued on April 27, 2023, after Ms. Chalifoux has a chance to consult with the property owner. Items to be discussed are using wetland mix rather than regular lawn grass, and additional buffering. More detail to be presented regarding the stream armoring.

3. IW-23-9: 46 Minute Man Rd. Summary Ruling Application for first and second floor addition on the existing deck footprint within the upland review area of wetlands. *Owner: Lee & Sheri Preece. Applicant: Rick Depalma.*
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/91080>

Applicant was not present at the meeting. Ms. Baker asked members if they wanted the applicant to submit a planting plan along the pond where it comes close to the area of the new addition and driveway. There was agreement, so Mr. Johnson will call him to discuss adding planting along the edge of the pond as part of the application.

Discussion will be continued on April 27, 2023.

III: Application(s) for Receipt:

None.

IV: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

There are 3 current enforcement items being handled by Mr. Johnson.

V: Other Business:

1. Rail Trail Tree Cutting. % Chair

Ms. Baker attended a site walk with employees of Eversource, first selectman Rudy Marconi, and Caleb Johnson, and reviewed some additional safeguards that would be provided: (1) additional flagging of the property line within the large wetland to the west of Cooper Hill Road, so that only trees on Eversource property would be removed; (2) since Wood and Eastern Box Turtles are known to be in the area, proper turtle protocols will be followed during the work. Scott Hall, Eversource's Field Oversight manager will be on site on a regular basis.

2. Sophia Dr, Bogus Road, Neds Mountain Easement-Main Replacement-Aquarion
Water Company of Connecticut

Shannon Williams presented the updated plans for the stream crossing. Members agreed that they included all of the suggestions made by the Board at the March 23 meeting, and thanked Ms. Williams for the cooperation afforded to the Board by Aquarion. The Board will be informed when the work starts.

3. 32 Loren Lane

Mr. Johnson reported that the questions about the stream on state property abutting 32 Loren Lane had been answered by DEEP. The property owner will need to address the location and depth of his well, as there is no mitigation possible on the state property that will have a material effect on well pollution.

Note from Chair: Regarding the upcoming Public Hearing for 0 Ethan Allen Highway that is scheduled to start at the Board's April 27 meeting, Ms. Baker informed the Board that the applicant has been asked to get all files for the project uploaded by April 20 in order to give members enough time for review. Members should consider while reviewing the project whether they feel any additional professional review is warranted, as this would need to be requested at the first meeting.

VI: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** March 09, 2023

Mr. Bishop motioned and Mr. Smith seconded to approve the Minutes. Motion carried 4-0-1, with Ms. Miller abstaining.

- **Sitewalk Minutes:** March 19, 2023

No motion taken, will be reviewed at the next meeting.

VIII: Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:31 P.M.

Submitted by

Susan Baker, Chair