



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

August 25, 2022

Members present: Susan Baker, vice chair; Alan Pilch, secretary; Tracey Miller, Chris Phelps.

Member Absent: Patricia Sesto, chair; David Smith, Tim Bishop

Also present: Andrew P. Hally, wetland agent; Aarti Paranjape, Recording Secretary;
Martha Rogers, Jack Kace; Conservation Commission, Todd Flashner.
Robert DeRoma

I: Call to order

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

II: Application 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>

Ms. Rogers updated the Board with improvements proposed. She said that after consulting the Inland Wetlands Board, Conservation Commission and the experts. Most of the cleanup work will be performed during the dormant time. Her proposal is for 6 plants -they will be sassafras and winterberry. The plantings will be done during the early spring when the chances of survival are most. She added due to the topography it will not be easy to take care of the plants after they are planted as the access from her property to the planting area is difficult.

She inquired about the topped trees; if they will be dropped down at same place or stay as is.

Mr. Pilch suggested mixing shadblows and elderberry to the list of plantings.

Ms. Miller agreed that shadblows will be good to provide shade. She suggested to plant 10 trees, with 6 being shadblows.



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Mr. Kace commented, that Conservation Commission would like the invasive species to be removed and a performance bond for the care should be posted. The trees will be replaced if they don't survive the growing season. He added deer fences to be installed and keep the trees disease resistant. He said he can't comment if the topped trees should be removed as that will be discussed at the Conservation meeting.

Mr. Flashner said he would like the topped trees to be removed. He said he would like the debris to be removed further away from his sight. Discussion ensued as for the number of plantings and the care of the newly planted plants if needed.

Board stated following special conditions:

- Felling of two topped trees, if Conservation approves and they will stay on forest floor.
- The other 4 topped trees will remain.
- 10 plants to be planted- 6 shadblows, and other trees will be elderberry, winterberry, or sassafras; all of 3-5 gallon size.
- Performance bond and recommendation of taking care of plants by periodic watering and checking for any diseases. It was agreed that 7 of the plants needed to survive in order to meet the bond.
- Deer fencing to protect the new plants.
- Slash to be removed during dormant month (November is recommended), tree trunks to remain. No removal of slash or trunks from wetlands.
- Remove invasive species before planting (Japanese Stiltgrass and Barberry were observed).
- The plantings to be completed in spring.
- RCC has the right to deny or approve the conditions stated on the open space.

Ms. Miller motioned to approve the Summary Ruling application with above mentioned special conditions and standard conditions. Mr. Phelps Seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

2. (Contd.) IW-22-27, 40 Mountain Road, Summary Ruling application to correct a violation of installing a patio within wetlands and upland review area of wetlands.



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Owner: Pilar Magrigal. Applicant: Robert DeRoma.
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/87687>

Mr. DeRoma updated the Board about the progress he has made. He said he has hired a landscaping Architect. Mary Jaehnig to update the wetlands maps.

Discussion continued to September 08, 2022.

III: Application(s) for Receipt:

1. **IW-22-28, 35 Griffith Lane**, Summary Ruling Application for additions, construction of deck and removal of shed within the upland review area of wetlands. *Owner: Rohit & Neesha Mathur. Applicant: John Doyle. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.*
2. **IW-22-33, 86 Barry Avenue**, Summary Ruling Application pond dredging and associated work within the wetlands. *Owner: Robert & Linda Magni. Applicant: Gene Nazzarro. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.*

Mr. Pilch Motioned to receive above two applications. Ms. Miller Seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Sitewalk scheduled at August 28, 2022.

IV: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

None.

V: Other Business:

1. Bond Release:

- **50 Ivy Hill Road**, 2012-105-SR, Bond release request for \$1500.00 posted for grading and filling in backyard.

Mr. Hally updated the Board that the site is stabilized. He added s this bond posted is very old, the plantings have overgrown. He noticed besides the winter berry he notices porcelain berry has also taken over the area. The site however is stabilized and the bond can be released.



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Mr. Pilch Motioned to release the above bond. Ms. Miller Seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

VI: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting: July 28, 2022**

Mr. Pilch Motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Phelps Seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

VII: Adjourn

Ms. Baker shared the news that Chair Ms. Sesto is resigning and leaving the Board. She is moving out of Ridgefield. Members expressed that Ms. Sesto has been an invaluable asset not just to the Inland Wetlands Board but to the Town of Ridgefield.

She will be missed tremendously.

The members discussed the replacement for her and how it would work. Ms. Baker said the Republican party will have to look for a candidate of replacement. She said she would find out more and share it with the members.

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary