



## TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

### APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

February 25, 2021

Members present: Patricia Sesto: Chair, Susan Baker: Vice Chair, Tim Bishop, Tracey Miller (joined at 7:04PM), Alan Pilch, Kory Salomone, David Tatge

Also present: Agent, Aarti Paranjape, Office Administrator; Daniel Band, Louth Callahan Renewables; Matthew O'Neil, GEI, James McManus, JMM Soil Consulting LLC; Gene Nazzaro; Russell Gough, ROAR, David Rizzo, Jack Kace, Conservation Commission

#### I: Call to order

Ms. Sesto called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

#### II: Discussions:

1. **#IW-21-05, 900 Ridgebury Road**, installation of ground-mounted solar panels on approximately 0.77 acres within the upland review area. *Owner: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. Applicant: Daniel Band*

Mr. Band gave an overview and stated the issues raised by the Board at the last meeting have been addressed and the associated documents were submitted.

Mr. Matthew O'Neil, GEI, gave a presentation to the Board. He said the test pits were dug and infiltration and permeability tests were conducted. The testing showed zero infiltration due to a restrictive layer at two feet. In addition to the infiltration trenches parallel with the solar arrays, approximately 1500 linear feet of trenches are added downslope along the contours. The revised model shows 10 and 50-year storm events have lower peak runoff as compared to the existing conditions on site. The Hydro CAD model was revised based on the new soil data and expanded infiltration trenches. Mr. O'Neil explained the warnings flagged by the SWCD.

He added that there are series of drainage swales along the edge of the street. These eventually lead to a catch basin to the north on the main access road. He didn't know where the runoff ultimately discharges.



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Mr. Pilch, identified himself as a professional engineer, asked if the model takes into consideration the gaps between the discreet infiltration units' parallel to the solar arrays.

Mr. O'Neil responded the model is more conservative and does not count the breaks along the trenches. He added that the trenches would be built with 8-foot length segments with the bottom of each segment being level and each segment is separated from next segment with a 2-foot-wide area of unmodified soil. The model indicates the solar panels will not have a negative impact on the existing conditions.

Ms. Miller inquired about the end-of-life disposal of the panels and sought insurance they would not be disposed incorrectly on the site, as the leaks from the panels could contaminate the waterways.

Mr. Band confirmed that the contract includes proper disposal, where the panels will be carefully removed from site and will be recycled.

Mr. Bishop asked if the applicant still intends to plant the butterfly friendly plantings as mentioned at the sitewalk. Mr. Band said to make the site aesthetically beautiful, they propose to plan butterfly friendly plants in between the children center and proposed solar site.

**Mr. Bishop motioned to approve IW-21-05 with the Boards standard conditions, applicable normal special conditions. Mr. Tatge seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.**

**Publication date is March 04, 2021, and effective date is March 05, 2021.**

**2. #IW-21-6, 293 Florida Hill Road, pond dredging and associated site work. Owner: Ian Duncan. Applicant: Gene Nazzaro**

Mr. Gene Nazzaro restated the concerns the Board had at the last meeting. He informed the members the property is in FEMA Zone X. The distance from the closest tree to the spoil disposal limit is 14 feet. There will be zero grading near the trees. The work will be performed in the low flow period. And the volume of sediment to be removed is approximately 135 yards. The perimeter of the pond is not going to be changed; the only work will be to replace fallen stones. The spoils area will be seeded and include fescues.

Ms. Sesto reviewed her notes for suggested conditions of approval.

1. The work will be performed during low flow period.
2. Bond to be submitted until the site is stabilized
3. Construction fence is need to protect leaching fields and trees.



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**Mr. Bishop motioned to approve IW-21-06 with the Boards standard conditions, applicable normal special conditions and the additional special conditions outlined by Ms. Sesto. Mr. Pilch seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.**

**Publication date is March 04, 2021, effective date is March 05, 2021.**

4. **#IW-21-11, 45 South Street**, Summary Ruling Application for re-grading, and address drainage issues in the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Town of Ridgefield. Applicant: Russell Gough (ROAR).*

Russel Gough gave an overview of the application. He said the portion used to exercise the dogs site has drainage issues following heavy rains. The existing lawn will be graded to improve drainage, top soil spread, and sod laid.

Ms. Sesto stated the soils need to be decompacted to improve infiltration and protect the wetland. Discussion continued to identify the importance of the closed configuration of the receiving elongated basin. This will further support infiltration.

**Mr. Salomone approved IW-21-11 with the Boards standard conditions, applicable normal special conditions and the additional special condition that the work area be decompacted. Ms. Baker seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.**

**Publication date is March 04, 2021 and Effective date is March 05, 2021.**

### **III: Applications to be received:**

**Mr. Pilch motioned to receive the applications listed on the agenda. Mr. Tatge seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.**

**The site walk scheduled on March 07 and discussion on March 11, 2021.**

1. **#IW-21-12: 45 South Street**, Summary Ruling Application for design and construction of approximately 2,510 feet of an 8-foot-wide combined-use walkway along Farmingville Road and Ligi Way in the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner/Applicant: Town of Ridgefield. Authorized agent: Tory Sidoti.*

<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/79894>

2. **#IW-21-13, 16 Fulling Mill Lane**, Summary Ruling Application to install an inground pool and associated sitework in the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Joseph Valentino. Applicant: Sara De Mici.*



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<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/79309>

#### **IV: Administrative Approvals:**

None

#### **V: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:**

10 Kendra Court; #2020-079-WV

Mr. Bishop updated the members. Ms. Throckmorton, agent for the property owner, informed him that she anticipates submitting the application sometime in March.

#### **VI: Other Business**

Ms. Sesto asked for a volunteer to inspect a site of an older wetlands pert that needs to be closed. Mr. Pilch will conduct an inspection and verify the conditions of the permit have been satisfied in order to close the permit.

Ms. Paranjape will send the information pertaining to the application to Mr. Pilch and Mr. Bishop.

#### **VII: Approval of Minutes:**

**Inland Wetlands Meeting – February 11, 2021**

**Sitewalk Minutes –February 21, 2021**

**Ms. Baker motioned to approve the wetlands meeting minutes and sitewalk minutes as amended. Mr. Salomone seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.**

#### **VIII: Adjourn**

Mr. Bishop acknowledged the attendance of Conservation Commission member Mr. Jack Kace. A brief discussion ensued regarding the work of this board and open space work of the commission.



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Hearing no further discussion, Ms. Sesto adjourned the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape  
Recording Secretary