



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

May 27, 2021

Members present: Susan Baker: Vice Chair, Tim Bishop, Tracey Miller, Alan Pilch (Joined at 7:24PM), Kory Salomone: Secretary, David Tatge

Members absent: Patricia Sesto: Chair

Also present: Richard Baldelli: Director Planning & Zoning Commission, Andrew P. Hally: Inland Wetlands Agent, Aarti Paranjape: Office Administrator; Brandon Arcamone, Jay Smith, Mr & Mrs Daigle, Ms. Donna Culbert.

Mr. Baldelli, Director, Planning & Zoning introduced Mr. Andrew P. Hally, new Inland Wetlands Agent to the Board members. He gave a brief background of Mr. Hally and stated he has same contact email as the prior agent.

I: Call to order

Ms. Baker called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

II: Applications for Discussion:

- 1. IW-21-20 (Contd.), 384 Branchville Road, Summary Ruling Application** corrective action for an installation of a stone pad for prebuild garage and filling within the upland review area. *Owner/Applicant: Brandon Arcamone.*

The Board had asked Mr. Arcamone since the last meeting to submit an updated planting plan.

Mr. Arcamone informed the Board that he proposes planting 18 ferns and hostas plants between flags 4 and 5, which is approximately 15 feet from the edge of wetlands. He doesn't propose any plantings in the ditch which is naturally vegetated with weeds.

Ms. Baker inquired if any plantings would be on the left side towards flag 6.

Mr. Arcamone stated that he proposes lawn on that side and behind the shed.



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Ms. Baker suggested that the lawn should be demarcated clearly so that in future the wetlands buffer is not converted into lawn.

Members expressed concerns with the sparse planting plan.

Ms. Miller stated that for the given area of approximately 500 square feet, 18 plants are not adequate and that there should be at least 100, one gallon ferns. Ms. Miller stated that since the disturbance in the upland review area is large, it's prudent to save the wetlands with vigorous plantings and a wide buffer. It will compensate for the earth disturbance and grading done without the permit.

Mr. Bishop suggested that the plantings should be native and agreed with Ms. Miller's suggestions of robust plantings.

Discussion ensued and given the hardships of the homeowner, members proposed that the planting should be double the amount he suggested: 36 native wetland ferns, hostas, and *carex*, in one-quart size pots. The homeowner also agreed to spread a wetland seed mix and stated that he still plans to have a three-foot woodchips buffer outside of the 15-foot buffer to the wetland.

Ms. Miller suggested visiting the New England wetlands native plant site which will help applicant to choose the wetland plants.

Mr. Arcamone will submit the final planting plan and provide the estimate of cost of the plantings so that Board can determine the bond to be posted at the next meeting.

2. IW-21-24, 239 Peaceable Street, Summary Ruling Application for renovations and sitework within upland review area of the wetlands. Owner: Patrick and Katherine Daigle. Applicant: Jay Smith.

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the scope of work. The project includes expanding the existing patio, removing two existing retaining walls, and adding 2 new retaining walls. Lawn steps are proposed which lead down to the pond area. The planting plan includes shrubs, perennials and grasses and native plants. Trees are not being removed during the process. There is no construction along the pond.

Mr. Pilch corrected that the upland review is 100 feet and not 75 feet as shown on the plans. He suggested moving the silt fence away from the wetlands boundary.



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Ms. Miller inquired if pennisetum grass is closer to the pond and suggested native grass near the pond area. Mr. Smith stated that near the pond he proposes panicum grass.

Mr. Pilch inquired about the height and grading near the walls. Mr. Smith confirmed he is realigning the walls and the grading remains the same with the wall height at three feet.

Mr. Pilch also suggested showing the grading on the plans between the walls and stated that the upland review area should be stabilized.

Mr. Pilch acknowledged the list of plantings proposed.

Discussion will be continued and the applicant will provide the required information at the next meeting:

- The silt fence to be relocated away from the wetlands boundary.
- Grading plan along the two retaining walls to be shown on the plans.

III: Applications to be Received:

None

IV: Administrative Approvals:

353 Main Street, IW-21-25, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Ridgefield.

Ms. Paranjape informed that the applicant had received an approval in 2019 by the prior Board. The administrative application was submitted in order to give the final sign off and to ensure that the work is done according to the conditions stated in the resolution. Since the work doesn't involve any building permit, the administrative approval will state the conditions on the permit and it can be issued by the wetland agent.

V. Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

1. Cease and Correct Order – 33 Beaver Brook Road - Show Cause Hearing

The homeowner has not submitted the corrective application. A certified mail and regular mail notice was sent to the homeowner. The deadline to submit a corrective application is June 08, 2021.

2. 21 Bryon Avenue



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No corrective application has been submitted to the office. However, the applicant's Counsel is aware that the application has to be submitted before the June 08, 2021 deadline.

3. 136 Limekiln Road

Ms. Culbert informed that she is in contact with an engineer and landscape architect and they will assist her with the application submission. She proposes to submit a complete application before the June 10 meeting.

VI: Other Business

Mr. Bishop informed he was not able to visit the property at 50 Ivy Hill as stated at the last meeting. Bond releases will be handled by office staff and Mr. Hally will go out to review the properties.

VII: Approval of Minutes:

Inland Wetlands Meeting – May 13, 2021

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Salomone seconded. Motion carried 5-0-1, with Ms. Miller abstaining.

Site walk Minutes –May 23, 2021

Mr. Pilch motioned to approve the site walk minutes. Mr. Tatge seconded. Motion carried 5-0-1, with Mr. Salomone abstaining.

VIII. Adjourn

Hearing no further discussion, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary