



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

February 24, 2022

Members present: Patricia Sesto, chair; Susan Baker, Vice chair, Alan Pilch, secretary; Chris Phelps, Tim Bishop, David Smith

Members absent: Tracey Miller

Also present: Andrew P. Hally, wetland agent; Aarti Paranjape, office administrator; Steven Trinkaus; P.E. James McManus, Robert R. Jewell, Elizabeth DiSalvo, Howard Lee Dainius Virbickas; P.E. Kate Throckmorton, Kevin Cohen, Gerry Panico.

I: Call to order

Ms. Sesto called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

II: Public Hearing:

- 1. (Contd.) IW-21-56, 187 Rippowam Road,** Plenary Ruling application to construct a bridge over a stream within the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Nguyen, Vi. Applicant: Steven Trinkaus.*
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/84238>

Mr. Hally read the list of new documents submitted into the record.

Mr. Jewell gave an overview of the design and brief history of the proposed accessway which is positioned at a relatively leveled portion of the property. He added that alternative of the using the existing driftway for access will have a significant impact. The driftway will have to be widened to 16 feet to meet the accessway standards to serve two homes. Large amounts of grading would be involved in order to meet the standards, ultimately having more impact on the wetlands and watercourse.

Mr. Trinkaus addressed Board's concern about the excavation near the watercourse. He said that the limit of footings for excavation has been moved back from the channel to be 2-4.5 feet from the top of the bank.



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The accessway has been reconfigured via a proposed lot line adjustment, allowing the driveway configuration to remain as previously proposed. The bed rock cut will involve approximately 7500 yards of fill to be removed from the site.

The alternative accessway utilizing the existing wood bridge will require a travelway width of 16 feet. The limit of fill and excavation involved to build the accessway is enormous given the grading and realignment with Rippowam Road. This alternative is not feasible or prudent as opposed to the preferred driveway.

Mr. McManus reiterated that the alternate crossing will have more significant impact due to the fill and excavation involved. The proposed driveway has the least impact on the wetlands and watercourse. He added that the lower alternate entrance may be feasible, but it is not prudent.

Ms. Sesto suggested redesigning the proposed driveway so that it can serve the front lot too and avoid future disturbance and construction of a second crossing in the future.

Mr. Lee, property owner, commented that presently they have no intention of developing the front lot. He offered that construction of the wider driveway now to also serve the front lot is not feasible but in future would be open it.

Mr. Jewell stated that the team has proposed the most prudent and feasible alternative and that the current proposal will have minimum impact and the revisions demonstrate improvement.

Ms. Sesto clarified for the record that as Mr. Jewell cited a case study regarding the requirement to provide alternatives in plan form vs. just verbal descriptions. The case is not applicable to Ridgefield as our regulations list sketches of alternatives as an application requirement.

Ms. Baker inquired if moving of abutment further away from the stream requires less fill.

Mr. Trinkaus assured that moving the abutments reduces fill in the wetland areas.

Mr. Pilch acknowledged the revised plans of moving the abutments back is an improvement. He disagreed with the applicant's comments of the alternative crossing. The driveway can be built to meet the contours and accomplish a 12 percent grade.

Ms. Sesto called for public comment. There was none.

With no further questions or comments, the public hearing closed at 8:04 PM.



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2. **(Contd.) IW-21-57, 0 Ives Court**, Plenary Ruling Application for Drainage, grading and road improvements to Ives Court to meet Town roadway standards within the upland review area of wetlands. *Owner: Robert Cioffoletti. Applicant: Michele Micoli; Artel Engineering.*

<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/84217>

Mr. Hally read the list of new documents into the record.

Mr. Virbickas presented the revisions to the plan, including routing runoff to hydrodynamic separators and then discharging into the planted plunge pool at the western end of the road. The discharge point depicted further east is graded into pre-formed scour pools.

Ms. Throckmorton stated the planting are rearranged to be along the existing wood line. The riprap slope is proposed for the steeper slopes.

Ms. Sesto requested street trees be added to reduce thermal pollution to the watercourse. It was resolved shade trees would be added as overhead wiring allows, with greater attention on the south side of the road.

Ms. Sesto called for public comment. There was none.

The public hearing closed at 8:22PM.

III: Applications for Discussion:

1. **(Contd.) IW-21-58, 66 Keeler Drive**, Summary Ruling application for corrective action for potential violation, to fill the area adjacent to stream and pond within the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Alexandre Suter. Applicant: Mike Mazzucco.* <https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/84841>

Applicant requested to continue the discussion until next meeting.

2. **(Contd.) IW-22-3, 10 Black Pine Ridge**, Summary Ruling application for construction of pool within the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Jorge Restrepo. Applicant: Sara Demici.* <https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/83911>



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Mr. Cohen described the revisions to the impervious patio and the fence has been moved further away from pool closer to wetlands. The planting plan includes unidentified native plants at unspecified quantities.

Mr. Pilch suggested adding shrubs and not just herbaceous species. The pool fence should be moved in front of the planting, away from the wetlands. This will prevent the mowing associated around the pool and fence area.

Ms. Sesto expressed concerns of exposed dirt near the wetland and asked where the limit of lawn was with the original permit for the house. Discussion ensued. The site may be in violation of that permit. If yes, a restoration plan would be required.

The discussion is continued to March 10, 2022. Applicant will gather information regarding the limit of disturbance and submit the planting/ restoration plan.

- 3. IW-22-5, 7 Canterbury Lane,** Summary Ruling application for construction of patios and retaining walls and addition to dwelling within the upland review area of wetlands. *Owner: Gregory & Danuta Veillette. Applicant: Gerry Panico. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.*
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/85863>

Mr. Panico presented the application and gave an overview of the scope of work which involves an impervious patio, addition to the existing dwelling and a stormwater system. Mr. Panico confirmed only one tree will be taken down.

Mr. Pilch commented that the wetlands are up gradient from the proposed work and the runoff will not have an impact on the wetlands. He noted that one of the plans showed watercourse and inquired how the infiltration galleries are placed in regard to the watercourse.

Discussion followed regarding inconsistent mapping of the watercourse and lack of soil testing to substantiate the infiltrator location.

Ms. Sesto stated the special conditions:

1. Deep test holes for the infiltrator shall be submitted prior to commencement of work.
2. Final as-built survey shall show the watercourse on the property and the flagged wetland boundary as shown by the soil scientist.
3. Erosion and sediment control plans encompassing the infiltrators.



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Ms. Sesto motioned to approve the Summary Ruling application with standard and applicable special conditions and the additional special conditions listed, Mr. Pilch seconded. Mr. Bishop abstained. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Publication date is March 03, 2022. Effective date is March 04, 2022.

- 4. (Contd.) IW-21-56, 187 Rippowam Road,** Plenary Ruling application to construct a bridge over a stream within the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Vi Nguyen Applicant: Steven Trinkaus.*
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/84238>

Discussion ensued regarding the revised abutment locations. The improvements are better however the concerns remain regarding the stability of the bank during excavation. The crossing would have to be performed during low water flow. The location of the crossing leaves no options to divert water around the work area. Various notes on the plans were not updated to align with the project revisions.

Discussion is continued to the next meeting at March 10, 2022.

- 5. (Contd.) IW-21-57, 0 Ives Court,** Plenary Ruling Application for Drainage, grading and road improvements to Ives Court to meet Town roadway standards within the upland review area of wetlands. *Owner: Robert Cioffoletti. Applicant: Michele Micoli; Artel Engineering.*
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Members discussed the revised plans and inclusion of the swirl separators. The Board acknowledged the constraints of working in an existing right of way and could not find further room for improvement.

The special condition will include:

1. Revised planting plans to include the street trees.
2. Permanent erosion control blankets shall be added at the western plunge pool outflow adjacent to the stream.

Ms. Baker motioned to approve the Plenary Ruling application with standard and applicable special conditions and the additional special conditions listed, Mr. Bishop seconded. Motion carried 6-0-0.



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IV: Applications for Receipt:

1. **IW-22-6, 23 Wooster St.**, Summary Ruling application for addition, decks, Stormwater system, and reconfiguring driveway within the upland review area of wetlands. *Owner/Applicant: Trevor McEnaney.*
2. **IW-22-7, 3 Turtle Ridge**, Summary Ruling application for construction of inground pool and adjacent patio, modify driveway within the upland review area. *Owner: Richard Danzing. Applicant: Ellen Hines.*
3. **IW-22-8, 56 Shadow Lake Road**, Summary ruling application for the corrective action involving grading and improvements within the upland review area. *Owner/Applicant: David DiCamillo.*

Mr. Smith motioned to receive the above three applications, Ms. Baker seconded. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Site walk is scheduled for March 06, 2022 and discussion on March 10, 2022.

V: Administrative Approvals:

None.

VI: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting: February 10, 2022**
Mr. Pilch motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Smith seconded. Ms. Baker and Mr. Bishop abstained. Motion carried 4-0-2.
- **Sitewalk Meeting: February 20, 2022**
Ms. Baker motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Phelps seconded. Ms. Sesto and Mr. Bishop abstained. Motion carried 4-0-2.

VII. Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Ms. Sesto adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary