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Cc:

CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLANDS &
WATERCOURSES AGENCY MINUTES
JULY 19, 2011
REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Margery Winters, Vice Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. Other members and alternates in attendance were Patrick Kottas and Donald Rieger. Also present were Howard Beach, Conservation Officer, Janis Prifti, Commission Clerk, and other interested parties.

II. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

A quorum was not present and no alternates were appointed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 15, 2011, June 7, 2011 and June 21, 2011

There was not a quorum to approve the minutes.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING(s), DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE

a. Application of the Simsbury Fire District, Owner, Kevin Kowalski, Fire Marshall, Applicant, for an Inland Wetlands Permit for activities associated with constructing a 40-foot x 70-foot cement training pad for vehicle extrication training within the 100-foot regulated area to a wetland on property located at the Weatogue Fire Station's Training Area, 251R Hopmeadow Street. (Map F-16, Block 116, Lot 3c)

Fire Marshall Kowalski stated they currently do a tremendous amount of training to become certified in extricating people from cars. He said the training is done at the old carnival grounds adjacent to the two-story annex building where they have a car lot for storing donated cars used in training. He said prior to training all of the cars' fluids are drained

and safely stored. He said they really need to have a non-pervious surface so they can use absorbent towels and materials to pick up any hazardous or regulated spillage. He stated they are also having issues with kids and stones and getting into the car area, so they would like to cage it in. He said they are concerned about the nearby spring and would like to close their current operating area and return the space back to grass. They would remove some of the stone and use it in the proposed pad; they would bring an area of earth currently at a 2' grade, level with the asphalt, dig it out, and make a berm around the outside for privacy and protection from the walkway. He said this will make it quieter for neighbors, although they are not there late at night. He said they will move fill, fill in the pictured area, build the berm and put cement down which will be pitched toward the asphalt and not toward the water or wetlands area to better protect it. Chairman Winters asked where it would drain. Fire Marshall Kowalski said it is not a big area and would probably drain natural surface straight across, but they will be able to catch it on the non-pervious surface if it goes another direction. He said they have a cistern training tank in the area also.

Chairman Winters asked if they will use water. Fire Marshall Kowalski said they use water and sometimes a small amount of foam; if some oil comes out of an engine they can pick it up with an absorbent towel. Commissioner Kottas asked if the area would need to be remediated. Fire Marshall Kowalski said the existing dirt has been looked at and the area does not require much remediation and will primarily be seeded and returned to a nice condition with some of the stone being used in the new pad. Chairman Winters asked if the trees would remain. Fire Marshall Kowalski said they would remain and stated an old dirt pile there for years will be leveled and returned to good condition. Commissioner Kottas asked if the dark dotted line was the fence up to the building. Fire Marshall Kowalski said it was the project area and will have a silt fence for protection. Chairman Winters clarified the drainage direction. Fire Marshall Kowalski showed the area where the cars are driven in or pushed in will have gates and asphalt and went over the layout pictured. He said they will also clear out brush and fence in the entire area.

Chairman Winters asked if the berm should extend further. Fire Marshall Kowalski explained the berm cannot be extended because of existing water faucets and a hydrant in the area and the only shade for setting up a training-area table. Commissioner Kottas asked about the waterway. Mr. Beach said it was called Russell Brook or a tributary to it. Fire Marshall Kowalski pointed out the area where they are working now is very close to the brook so they would like to return it to its original state, as well as level the adjacent dirt pile and return it to a nice state. Chairman Winters asked about the area's type of vegetation. Fire Marshall Kowalski stated it is scrub brush that extends a distance and will be

cleared out and the entire area fenced in. Commissioner Rieger asked for clarification of the existing area. Fire Marshall Kowalski explained the layout. Chairman Winters asked about the type of foam used. Fire Marshall Kowalski said they buy special foam that does not harm fish or vegetation and costs almost \$50/gallon; in Wethersfield some got into a stream and there was a problem and fine, so they will not do that. Commissioner Rieger asked if oil absorbing pads are typically on hand. Fire Marshall Kowalski said 25% of the capitol region emergency response hazardous material team is in Simsbury and stored onsite in their trailer. Chairman Winters asked if spillage would go across the pavement and into a grassy area before the stream. Fire Marshall Kowalski said it won't go too far into the area, because there are catch basins and they are not concerned about foam as much as the one quart of oil. Chairman Winters clarified that they would be able to see it. Fire Marshall Kowalski said they want the non-pervious surface to protect the environment and to close in the area for protection. He said the adjacent classified wetlands are primarily soil with a small pool of water only in spring. He said they will take out some of the small trees in order to put in the fence and want to have a buffer area, as houses do not want to look out on a used car lot. Chairman Winters recommended leaving 3' of shrubs, instead of grass, along Russell Brook. Fire Marshall Kowalski agreed they would do that.

The Commissioners agreed to recommend the plan. Mr. Beach said he would work toward getting an administrative permit approved in the next day or two. Chairman Winters asked how the berm would be stabilized. Fire Marshall Kowalski said they previously used on the back of the firehouse a 30% tack product that held the bank while it grew, so they will discuss something to protect the silt fence. He said they probably won't mow that, because of the lack of grade. Mr. Beach and the Commissioners suggested some natural grasses and conservation mix keeping an 8' - 10' barrier.

V. RECEIPT OF NEW APPLICATION

a. Application of the Town of Simsbury, Owner, Rick Sawitzke, Town Engineer, Applicant, for permit to install a pressure sewer pipe from the Public Works Highway building and grounds facility on Town Forest Road through an easement through Walker Woods town open space, across Stratton Brook and its associated wetlands, to an existing pump station connected to the town system on Bushy Hill Road.

Mr. Beach stated the Public Works Garage wants to connect to the sewer, which requires a forced main to take sewage from the site up to the pump station on Longview going through open space the Town purchased from Ethel Walker. He walked it last week and found the Orange Trail goes through

there within 100" of where this main will be run, so they can run it up the existing trail without taking out any trees. He said they will use a narrow 1 1/2" forced main for 1/2 mile or 1800±; there is a vacant lot they can bring it through on the corner of Longview that the Town owns. He said the pump station on Longview is half way down the hill so they are not able to pick up the bottom half of the street. He said they will stop short of the wetlands because the Water Pollution Control Authority is exploring the possibility of a new pump station at the bottom of the hill with the potential to pick up 35 additional customers. He said that some time in the future Mr. Sawitzke will return for another permit for that section. He said that right now Rich Sawitzke is looking for a permit to directionally bore underneath the wetlands with no wetland disturbance at all; they will dig a pit on either side of the directional bore right underneath. Chairman Winters asked how deep it would be. Mr. Beach said probably 8 - 10' which is just deep enough to get underneath the entire wetlands and come up on the other side.

Mr. Sawitzke stated his application is for a permit to install a pressure sewer pipe from the Public Works Highway building and grounds facility on Town Forest Road through an easement through Walker Woods town open space and on the other side connect to an existing pumping station which connects to town systems on Bushy Hill Road. He said the overall length of the project is about 1800' and the subject of the permit is the crossing of Stratton Brook (yellow area) and its associated wetlands. He said the project is a 1 1/2" high density polyethylene pressurized pipe with continuous butt-welded joints. He said they also have about 120' of wetland area (yellow area) and then they get on an existing trail in the Walker Woods property with very limited clearing. He said the first couple of hundred feet coming off Town Forest Road in the upland areas would involve selective clearing of some trees. He said because it is a small diameter pressure pipe, they will be able to use a small machine and when they get to the wetlands crossing, he proposes to directionally bore or tunnel from the upland areas under the wetlands and under the brook. He read about this method on a big project in Wisconsin and it has been done some around here. He said directional boring is done on gravity pipes or where elevations have to be carefully controlled. He said with pressure pipe they don't have to hold an exact grade, but have to stay about 4' deep using some type of GPS control to hold direction and elevation. He said the beauty of the process is that they would not have to dig in any wetland or brook area. He expects the crossing to take about 2-3 days. He described the upland areas as rather abruptly changing with 2' contours and then a big flat area containing the brook and its associated wetlands, but once you are out the elevation comes up quickly and immediately gets into sandy, gravelly type soils and Windsor loams. He said the wetland areas they will go under are primarily sacro series silt loams which is good because they don't expect any big rocks or obstructions. Chairman Winters

asked what happens if you hit a rock. Mr. Sawitzke said that is a bad thing in directional boring without controls on, but the sacro silt loam is pretty rock free and they should slide right through. He said they have successfully dug across low flow streams damming a stream temporarily and digging around the site. In terms of alternates, he said they can be a lot more intrusive - they looked at gravity flow out of the system down Town Forest Road and the bridle path from Stratton Brook and all the way down to the High School, but the cost to go over a mile is tremendous and environmentally involves two crossings in Stratton Brook. He said in those areas there has been a lot of fill-in for the trail embankment with stone, and exactly what else they did is a mystery. This method is less disruptive and a small machine can get into a 6-8' wide trail very easily.

Commissioner Kottas asked if they would be digging the rest of it beyond the wetlands. Mr. Sawitzke said they would only actually be digging the 200' section in the upland area of the trail and probably 100' on one side. Normally, they take the native soil off and put it back, any trees cleared are wood chipped and used to create a wood chip surface; the walkway would be restored with sand and gravel and they probably have to put some leak offs from time to time so water won't concentrate and do silt fence checks on both sides of the wetlands. Commissioner Kottas asked if there was any protocol for how far below the wetlands they have to go. Mr. Sawitzke said usually the normal 4' depth is sufficient, especially on a low velocity stream like this; they stay below frost. Chairman Winters asked about existing water erosion on the trails. Mr. Beach stated it is all sandy soil once you are out of the wetlands and it is not a steep trail. Mr. Sawitzke said the elevation is about 250' for the whole area. He said the pump system allows additional progressive cavity pumps to come on line; or the Sewer Department would like to relocate the big pump station at the bottom of the hill to accommodate more houses. Right now they will concentrate on this section and develop details as things evolve on the street. Commissioner Rieger asked why Public Works needs to have this done. Mr. Sawitzke responded they store virtually everything out there and pump it because it is an aquifer area; all floor and yard drains go into storage tanks and are periodically pumped out, except for two septic systems that serve the offices. He would be a lot more comfortable pumping everything out of the aquifer area. He stated that is the scope of this project.

Mr. Beach said there would be another wetlands crossing at the bottom of Longview that will be proposed at a later time. Mr. Sawitzke said they will see how the directional boring works, and if it works well, will propose doing it in the future in the intermittent stream area also. Mr. Sawitzke recommended Mr. Beach handle it with an administrative permit. Mr. Beach said because there is no work in the wetlands, technically they can do that.

Chairman Winters clarified the 1 1/2' pipe work would go under the wetlands without sediment disturbance. Mr. Beach said it would; the rig is very small so the stream bottom will not settle. Mr. Sawitzke said they usually use a pneumatic mole. Mr. Beach said the hole is the size of the pipe. Chairman Winters asked what they do with the material that's excavated. Mr. Sawitzke said with this type of soil, it will go through easily and would not pull materials back but push it to the side. Mr. Sawitzke said a pressurized head pushes through the pipe and are sometimes used for pipe replacement with the pressure used to break old pipes and expand pushing larger pipes through. He said the business of excavating is to avoid making piles of dirt which is where environmental problems and costs develop. Chairman Winters stated it is a nice way to replace old pipe underground. Mr. Sawitzke said this town is more fortunate than many others, but does have some old sections of pipe from the 20's and 30's. He said he has dug up and reactivated some clay drainage pipes because the soil here is very non-corrosive. Commissioner Rieger asked why they pave first and then dig up the pipes, like Carver Circle. Mr. Sawitzke said he believes it is only smoothed, not paved and that the company with that equipment comes to town once only - they cannot get enough contractors to do all the pipes and so they return next fall or spring. Discussion ensued about paving, cutouts, drainage and patching. Mr. Sawitzke said they have used directional boring before with 6" pipe sewer lines under Rte 10 and in that case that material was pulled back. Mr. Beach said it was also used successfully by Red Door Construction for 1/4 mile on Ferry Lane under wetlands to get up to a well and it worked perfectly.

Commissioner Kottas recommended this application for administrative approval with the agreement of Commissioners Winters and Rieger.

VI. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Beach stated the LID consultant will be back on August 4, 2011, from 5-7 p.m. to present the draft LID; the drop dead date for funding is September 30, 2011. Chairman Winters commented that the consultant's last presentation was not very good and expressed hope that the draft LID would be better. She asked when the Rte. 10 meeting would take place and said it should be before September.

VII. DISCUSSION

None.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Margery Winters, Vice Chairman