

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Present: Assistant Director of Planning and Development, Brittany MacGilpin, Andrew Bade, Jason Berman, Donald Eaton Charles Haldeman, Jason Levy

Absent: Joseph Campolieta, Margery Winters, Kyle Testerman (Alternate), Cailyn Welsh (Alternate)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 19, 2023 regular meeting

Motion: Without objection, Mr. Levy moved to approve the September 19, 2023 minutes for the regular meeting of the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Committee.

All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (5-0-0)

III. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIPT AND DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Application CC #23-33 of Hop Meadow Country Club, Applicant/Owner, for a wetland permit to allow for the removal of accumulated sediment and soils from the pond located at 85 Firetown Road (Assessor's Map E08, Block 148, Lot 001) Simsbury, CT 06070, Zone R-40.

- Rob Good, Hydrogeologist from Weston & Sampson Engineers, presented the project to remove sediment and soils, improve the water quality, and create storage by deepening the irrigation pond for the club. He noted the pond is approximately one acre and is an off-channel pond located along the Grimes Brook. There is a diversion pipe from Grimes Brook that is valved, permitted by DEEP.
- Mr. Good pointed out that the stockpile area is outside of the regulated area. Additionally, the area around the pond is previously disturbed, developed golf turf.
- Several studies and assessments have been completed, including a pond depth survey, permeability tests and a wetlands impact assessment. The material underneath the pond is a sand and silt material. The plan for excavation is to do limited work on the northside of the pond, remove the sediment, and start to slope towards the central and southern portion of the pond to a maximum of 10-foot water level. The perimeter of the pond will not be expanded. Warm water fish species and

47 painted turtles were found in the pond. The plan is to trap the painted turtles and
48 relocate them on-site. The fish will be netted and maintained in a live well and then
49 released back into the pond.

- 50 • Mr. Good reviewed the timeline with the Commission, noting most of the work is
51 scheduled to be completed within 4 weeks during November/December 2023. There
52 are several items in-place to mitigate impact to the wetlands, including sequencing
53 of de-watering, the filtering of water before discharge, and the utilization of long-
54 reach excavators.
- 55 • Mr. Haldeman inquired if the water will be drained prior to digging. Mr. Good
56 responded that a diesel suction pump will be utilized to remove all water and then
57 well points will be installed to maintain the ground water below the bottom of the
58 pond. The pumps in those wells will be electrically powered and will discharge into
59 Grimes Brook.
- 60 • Mr. Haldeman inquired how the pond is filled with water currently. Mr. Good
61 responded that it is filled with surface water from Grimes Brook when the valve is
62 open and otherwise is filled via ground water infiltration.
- 63 • Mr. Berman inquired about a contingency plan regarding refilling the pond and
64 returning the fish in December if there are freezing weather conditions. Mr. Good
65 responded that water will be running through the live well to create circulation. The
66 combination of this and the opened valve and ground water recharge should result in
67 temperatures above freezing conditions.
- 68 • Mr. Haldeman inquired about the plan should there be heavy rainfall. Mr. Good
69 responded that this should not cause an issue because the catchment of pond is small,
70 and they should be able to manage this with de-watering pumps.
- 71 • Dr. Bade asked if the contractor has experience with fish salvage operations. Mr.
72 Good responded that Davison Environmental will be completing that work. They
73 are experienced and have qualifications to perform this type of work.
- 74 • Mr. Eaton asked whether the wells that will be installed to keep ground water out
75 will be removed upon completion of the project. Mr. Good confirmed they would be
76 removed.
- 77 • Mr. Haldeman discussed whether there should be a public hearing, given the
78 discharge to the stream.
- 79 • Mr. Levy confirmed that if the Commission finds project to be significant, a public
80 hearing is triggered. He also noted that the Commission has found similar projects
81 in the past to be significant.
- 82 • Ms. MacGilpin noted that if the project is determined to be non-significant, the
83 application still comes back to the Commission for approval at the next meeting, to
84 provide 14 days when the decision could be appealed.
- 85 • Commission discussed the timeline of the project and the date of the public hearing.
86 Ms. MacGilpin confirmed that there was enough time to hold a public hearing at the
87 next meeting of the Commission, without delaying the project.

88
89 **Motion:** Mr. Haldeman moved to find that **Application CC #23-33** of Hop Meadow Country
90 Club, Applicant/Owner, for a wetland permit to allow for the removal of accumulated sediment
91 and soils from the pond located at 85 Firetown Road (Assessor's Map E08, Block 148, Lot 001)
92 Simsbury, CT 06070, Zone R-40 is a significant activity and scheduled a public hearing for

93 action at the next regular meeting of the Commission, which is on October 17, 2023 at 7:30PM
94 in the Board of Ed Conference Room at Simsbury Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street. Mr.
95 Berman seconded the motion.

96
97 All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (5-0-0)
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99 **Application CC #23-34** of Manu Singh-Looney, Owner/Applicant, for a wetland permit
100 to allow for the construction of an addition to the home within a regulated area at 10
101 Cedar Glen (Assessor's Map E10, Block 147, Lot 207) West Simsbury, CT 06092, Zone
102 R-40.

- 103 • Applicant was not in attendance. Ms. MacGilpin presented the initiative, noting the
104 application is for an addition, and the current home is approximately 37 feet from the
105 wetland soils and Hop Brook. A portion of the addition will be replacing an existing
106 patio. Silt fencing will be utilized.
- 107 • The project requires a variance for a setback issue; and therefore, it will be presented
108 for approval to the Zoning Board of Appeals once the wetlands process is completed.
109

110 **Motion:** Mr. Haldeman moved to find that **Application CC #23-34** of Manu Singh-Looney,
111 Owner/Applicant, for a wetland permit to allow for the construction of an addition to the home
112 within a regulated area at 10 Cedar Glen (Assessor's Map E10, Block 147, Lot 207) West
113 Simsbury, CT 06092, Zone R-40 is a non-significant activity and scheduled it for action at the
114 next regular meeting of the Commission, which is on October 17, 2023 at 7:30PM in the Board
115 of Ed Conference Room at Simsbury Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street. Dr. Bade seconded
116 the motion.

117
118 All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (5-0-0)
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120 **Application CC #23-35** of Lee Erdmann, Town of Simsbury, Owner, and Adam Kessler,
121 P.E., Deputy Town Engineer, Town of Simsbury, Applicant, for a wetland permit to
122 allow for the rehabilitation of the Flower Bridge at 1 Old Barge Road (Assessor's Map
123 H11, Block 144, Lot 007), Simsbury, CT 06070, Zone R-15

- 124 • Adam Kessler, Deputy Town Engineer, presented the project to rehabilitate the
125 Flower Bridge. The bridge was built in 1892, repaired in the 1970s, and further
126 repaired in the 1990s and at that time was converted to a pedestrian bridge. A 2019
127 inspection showed the need to rehab the bridge to extend its life.
- 128 • A do-nothing approach was assessed, but it would result in more costly repairs in the
129 future or bridge collapse.
- 130 • The performance of spot repairs only another alternative that was assessed, but this
131 would still result in significant costs as it would require a containment system.
132 Additionally, given how the bridge is utilized by the public, it was determined that
133 having areas of new paint would not be aesthetically pleasing.
- 134 • After considering the alternatives, it was determined that a full rehab would be the
135 most advantageous and cost-effective approach.
- 136 • The project will include a debris shield placed underneath the bridge to prevent any
137 disturbance to the river. The work will be isolated to the bridge, timber decking will
138 be replaced, railings will remain the same but will be moved in slightly, and the

current basking hanging system with a new water system will be re-installed. The goal is to rehab the structure and return it to how it looks today.

- Mr. Haldeman inquired whether the new decking would result in anything washing off into the river. Mr. Kessler will follow-up with contractor on whether any new decking materials would need to be rinsed prior to installation.
- Mr. Levy inquired about the containment system and what would happen if flooding were to occur. Mr. Kessler responded that the standard for working over a river, of this size is that the debris shield should be placed at the 2-year flood event. However, as part of this plan, they are proposing to install at the 10-year flood event. Additionally, there is typically sufficient notice of potential river flooding to allow time for the contractor to raise or remove the debris shield, along with any storage material. Work is intended to begin in November, and they are hoping to complete the work prior to hurricane season.
- Mr. Haldeman inquired about the coating system and how long the process takes. Mr. Kessler responded that a high-quality coating system would be utilized, and application is done within the tent. The whole bridge will be cleaned through sand blasting, steel will be reinspected, and then structural repairs will happen. Once that is completed the coating system is applied to the bridge, which can take 1-3 weeks. The coating will likely occur next spring and will be dependent on weather conditions.
- Mr. Eaton asked where materials will be located and stored. Mr. Kessler responded that the park will be closed so materials can be located on-site, and there are lots available on Iron Horse that are available as well for larger, longer-term materials that should not be stored on the wetlands. Additionally, there is a provision for a small office to be located on the paved area should the contractor need one.
- Mr. Haldeman noted that because the bids are not in and there are no detailed project plans, the Commission will provide the recommended guidelines and the Town will be responsible to ensure these goals and recommendations are met.

Motion: Mr. Haldeman moved to find that **Application CC #23-35** of Lee Erdmann, Town of Simsbury, Owner, and Adam Kessler, P.E., Deputy Town Engineer, Town of Simsbury, Applicant, for a wetland permit to allow for the rehabilitation of the Flower Bridge at 1 Old Barge Road (Assessor's Map H11, Block 144, Lot 007), Simsbury, CT 06070, Zone R-15 is a significant activity and scheduled a public hearing for action at the next regular meeting of the Commission, which is on October 17, 2023 at 7:30PM in the Board of Ed Conference Room at Simsbury Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street. Mr. Berman seconded the motion.

All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (5-0-0)

IV. PUBLIC HEARING AND/OR PUBLIC ACTION ON APPLICATIONS

Application CC #23-30 of Christopher Lippet, Owner, and Welcome Home Improvement, Applicant, for a wetland permit to allow for the installation of three piers in order to enlarge an existing deck in the wetland soils at 48 Old Mill Court (Assessor's Map G10, Block 148, Lot 039) Simsbury, CT 06070, Zone RD. (*Determined non-significant at the regular meeting on 9/19/2023*)

Motion: Mr. Berman moved to approve **Application CC #23-30** of Christopher Lippert, Owner, and Welcome Home Improvement, Applicant, for a wetland permit to allow for the installation of three piers in order to enlarge an existing deck in the wetland soils at 48 Old Mill Court (Assessor's Map G10, Block 148, Lot 039) Simsbury, CT 06070, Zone RD, based on the following findings:

A. The project will not adversely impact the watercourse.

And subject to the following conditions:

1. The project shall be implemented in conformance with the submitted application and plans, dated August 19, 2023.
2. Native plantings will be replanted and invasive species removed on the property to the greatest extent possible.
3. At all times during site work and until soil areas are stabilized, the applicant shall install and maintain erosion and sediment control measures depicted in the application or other measures deemed necessary by the Commission's agent to prevent erosion and sedimentation impacts to the watercourse.
4. All erosion control and soil stabilization measures shall comply with the approved plans and the guidelines as established in the Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, 2002, CTDEP Bulletin 34.
5. Upon direction of the Commission's agent, erosion and sediment control measures shall be removed by the applicant following stabilization of the site.
6. The Inland Wetlands Agent shall be notified at least 48 hours prior to commencement of the activities.

Mr. Haldeman seconded the motion.

All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (5-0-0)

V. GENERAL COMMISSION BUSINESS

- Invasive Species Research Update
 - Discussion to be postponed until the next meeting of the Commission to provide Town Staff time to resolve outstanding items.
- Correspondence from Atlas Company providing a summary report of an underground storage tank facility at Cumberland Farms at 151 Hopmeadow Street.
 - Quarterly report is filed with the Planning Office. No issues were noted. There have been no issues identified previously.
- Briefing: FEMA Flood Map Revisions
 - Preliminary flood maps are ready to review and will be located on the Town website. Additionally, there will be a mass mailing completed by the Town.
 - Mr. Haldeman inquired whether a high-level summary of the changes to the overall flood maps is available. Ms. MacGilpin will look into this.

231 **VI. AGENT ACTIONS**

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233 **Application CC #23-32** of Phillip and Rebecca Smith, Owner/Applicant, for a wetland
234 permit to install two tier footings under an existing deck structure in the upland review
235 area at 31 Fernwood Drive (Assessor's Map B18, Block 506, Lot 054) Simsbury, CT
236 06070, Zone R-25.

- 237 • Ms. MacGilpin noted this is the installation of two piers under an existing deck to
238 support a mudroom and garage expansion and it is approximately 73 feet from
239 watercourse and silt fencing will be installed.
- 240 • Mr. Berman inquired whether the supports will be enough to handle the expansion of
241 the garage. Ms. MacGilpin noted that the project includes an expansion of the
242 garage, but the structure will primarily support the mudroom.

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244 **VII. ADJOURMENT**

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246 **Motion:** Mr. Haldeman moved to adjourn. Mr. Berman seconded the motion.

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248 All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (5-0-0)

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250 The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

251
252 Respectfully Submitted,

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254 Cara Blackaby
255 Commission Clerk
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