

1 **MINUTES**

2 **CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY**

3 **Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

4 **Board of Education Room, Second Floor, Simsbury Town Hall**

5 **933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070**

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7 **I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

8
9 Chairman Winters called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

10
11 **Present:** Town Planner, George McGregor, Andrew Bade, Jason Berman, Donald Eaton,
12 Charles Haldeman, Jason Levy, Margery Winters

13
14 **Absent:** Joseph Campolieta, Kyle Testerman (Alternate), Cailyn Welsh (Alternate)

15
16 **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

17
18 February 6, 2024 regular meeting

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20 **MOTION:** Mr. Haldeman moved to approve the February 6, 2024 minutes for the regular
21 meeting of the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Committee. Dr.
22 Bade seconded the motion.

23
24 All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (5-0-0)

- 25
26
 - Mr. Berman was not in attendance for this portion of the meeting and was not present
27 during this vote.

28
29 **III. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIPT AND DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

30
31 **Application CC #24-08** of Town of Simsbury/Engineering Department, applicant, and Town of
32 Simsbury, owner, for a wetland permit to construct a culvert extension within the right-of-way
33 by installing a storm manhole, pipe, and new headwall within wetland soils at 1503 Hopmeadow
34 Street (Assessor's Map I04, Block 403, Lot 015) Simsbury, CT 06070, zone I1.

- 35
 - Adam Kessler, Deputy Town Engineer, addressed the Commission and explained that
36 this project is part of the Hopmeadow Connectivity project, which establishes a
37 continuous sidewalk on the west side of Hopmeadow Street. The majority of the project
38 was completed in 2023, but a small gap exists around Saxton Brook. Original design
39 plans called for a retaining wall between the road and drainage swale without impact to
40 the wetlands. Given the issues with the skew of the pipe, spanning the culvert with a
41 retaining wall was not feasible. Other alternatives were considered but were ultimately
42 determined to be not feasible or cost prohibitive.
 - The current proposal is to install a manhole at the existing headwall, install 14 linear feet
43 of concrete pipe and then install a headwall at the end of the pipe. The proposed
44 construction is estimated to take 1 week, which provides flexibility with timing. The
45 Department of Transportation approved this option, provided the local wetlands agency
46

- 47 approves. The existing headwall has deteriorated and would need to be replaced under
48 any scenario.
- 49 • Ms. Winters inquired about what seeding would be utilized. Mr. Kessler replied that
50 conservation seed mix could be utilized.
 - 51 • Dr. Bade inquired whether there are any pictures of the culvert. Mr. Kessler did not have
52 any photos but would be prepared with current photos for the next meeting. Ms. Winters
53 also asked Mr. Kessler to review if there are any invasive plants in the area.
 - 54 • Dr. Bade inquired if there is any information on the existing culvert upstream on private
55 property, noting this could be an opportunity to re-design the culvert to allow aquatic
56 organism passage. Mr. Kessler is not aware of what the condition is and noted that
57 ultimately, they are extending without modifying the existing culvert.
 - 58 • Mr. Eaton inquired if the pipe will be buried and where the pipe will exit. Mr. Kessler
59 confirmed the pipe will be covered with soil and there will be a manhole cover. He noted
60 that the drainage goes in the direction toward the commercial development across the
61 street.
 - 62 • Mr. Levy noted that typically projects with activity in the wetlands are determined to be
63 significant.
 - 64 • Mr. Haldeman noted that even if the project is determined to be non-significant, a public
65 hearing could still be requested.
- 66

67 **MOTION:** Mr. Levy moved to find that Application CC #24-08 of Town of
68 Simsbury/Engineering Department, applicant and Town of Simsbury, owner, for a wetland
69 permit to construct a culvert extension within the right-of-way by installing a storm manhole,
70 pipe, and new headwall within wetland soils at 1503 Hopmeadow Street (Assessor's Map I04,
71 Block 403, Lot 015) Simsbury, CT 06070, zone II is a regulated activity as it has activity in the
72 upland review area and the wetlands area. Mr. Haldeman seconded the motion.

73
74 All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (6-0-0)

75
76 **MOTION:** Mr. Levy moved to find that Application CC #24-08 of Town of
77 Simsbury/Engineering Department, applicant and Town of Simsbury, owner, for a wetland
78 permit to construct a culvert extension within the right-of-way by installing a storm manhole,
79 pipe, and new headwall within wetland soils at 1503 Hopmeadow Street (Assessor's Map I04,
80 Block 403, Lot 015) Simsbury, CT 06070, zone II is a significant activity because it has activity
81 in the wetlands and that it is advertised and that a public hearing be scheduled for the next
82 meeting of the Commission on either March 5, 2024 or March 19 2024, depending on
83 advertising requirements. Mr. Haldeman seconded the motion.

84
85 All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (6-0-0)

86
87 **IV. GENERAL COMMISSION BUSINESS**

- 88 • Update on Revisions to Section 8.5-6.1, Large and Complex Projects
- 89 ○ Mr. McGregor noted that the Board of Selectman approved the amendment of the
90 language requested by this Commission and amended the language in the town
91 code so there are no limiting factors or thresholds that a certain project requires in

92 order to find the need for a third-party review. This was approved in October
93 2023.

- 94 ○ Process requires the Board of Selectman to approve the review and additional fee,
95 which would be paid for by the Applicant.

96
97 **V. AGENT ACTIONS**

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99 **Application CC #24-02** of Shawn Sales and Lauren Purple-Sales, applicant and owner, for a
100 wetland permit to allow installation of a generator and 500-gallon propane tank within the upland
101 review area at 7 Fox Den Road (Assessor's Map D11, Block 133, Lot 031) Simsbury, CT,
102 06092, zone R-40.

103
104 **Application CC #24-06** of Michael and Shari Galvin, applicant and owner, for a wetland permit
105 for construction of a 12' x 18' shed within the upland review area at 22 Litchfield Drive
106 (Assessor's Map G03, Block 403, Lot 311) Simsbury, CT, 06070, zone R-40 OS.

- 107 • Mr. Eaton inquired about when a permit is needed for a shed. Mr. McGregor responded
108 that he believes a permit is required for more than 120 sq. ft.

109
110 **Application CC #24-07** of DH Radomski, applicant, and Sean Murphy, owner, for a wetland
111 permit for construction of an approximately 16' x 12' deck within the upland review area at 38
112 Evans Drive (Assessor's Map C20, Block 512, Lot 011H) Simsbury, CT 06070, zone R-40.

113
114 **VI. CONSERVATION BUSINESS**

- 115 • Ms. Winters signed the Conservation Commission up as a co-sponsor for three talks
116 coming up: Pollinator Pathways, Dark Skies, and Invasive Plants. The write-ups will
117 be distributed to the Commissioners.
- 118 • Ms. Winters noted erosion during a walk around the Simsbury Farms Trail. Mr.
119 McGregor recommended reaching out to the Director of Parks and Recreation.
- 120 • Ms. Winters also walked Meadowood, noting a wetland area that is being regrown
121 with trees.
- 122 • Mr. Berman inquired if the Vessel application will be coming back to the Inland
123 Wetlands and Watercourses Agency. Mr. McGregor noted that the Zoning
124 Commission has a vote on a settlement agreement with Vessel on its agenda for
125 tomorrow. The settlement includes a reduction in the number of units, number of
126 stories and number of parking spaces.
- 127 • Mr. Haldeman inquired if there is a lesson to be learned for how projects can be better
128 completed in the future based on the Aquarian roadwork completed at Stratton, noting
129 the area is overgrown with invasive species. Commission discussed potentially doing
130 a site walk.

131
132 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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134 **MOTION:** Mr. Haldeman moved to adjourn. Mr. Levy seconded the motion

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136 All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. (6-0-0)

137

138 The meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

139

140 Respectfully Submitted,

141

142 Cara Blackaby

143 Commission Clerk