

**TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY / CONSERVATION COMMISSION**



ACTION MINUTES: October 4, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Reed, John Blondin, James Macdonald, Arthur Jennings, Richard Muller, and Chair Barbara Kelly

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Cote, Dan Katzbek, and Vice Chairperson John Phillips, Joe Durette

ALTERNATES PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Folger, Sr. Environmental Planner
Nicole Kowalik, Recording Secretary

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT: Steven King Jr.

Chairperson Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chairperson Kelly asked for public comment for items that were not on agenda. No public comment.

PERMIT EXTENSIONS: None

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS: None

BONDS: None

MINUTES: Minutes from Regular Meeting on 09-20-23: were approved by consensus as amended.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: None

WETLAND OFFICER: Jeff Folger mentioned that he received a response from Dean Gustafson, Environmental Consultant. The owner of Rye St contacted All Points Environmental. They will be doing an evaluation of the property and what has been done. They will put together a restoration plan for the area down to the brook and a plan to purpose agricultural use for the property.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

NEW BUSINESS: Appl. 23-39W, Town of South Windsor – 569 Griffin Rd – IWA/CC application for the replacement of a pedestrian bridge on property located northerly of Henry Rd, and southerly of Griffin Rd. Residential (A-20) Zone.

Jeff Doolittle, Town Engineer, discussed the site plans. He explained that the bridge has been at the area for about 60 years and is not in good shape. Doolittle showed pictures of the bridge. He described the bridge, explaining that there is cutting along the abutments, a retrofitted chain link fence along the top and dirt washes onto the bridge, where there are often puddles. The bridge is currently at the end of its lifespan and the plan is to replace the bridge. The plan is that the old bridge and abutments will be removed. The new bridge is 49 feet long and 12 feet wide with better railings with the intent still being a pedestrian bridge. The 10-foot-wide pathway leading to the bridge from Brook St and will extend through the school yard to the new parking lot as well will be paved. The project is funded by grant by the state and is approved from DEEP.

Erosion controls will include sand bag coffer dams and silt fencing. DEEP fisheries have already commented on the design and installation. The stream channel will benefit with less erosive cutting during storms.

Chairperson Kelly asked if the walkway will be slanted to shed water into the surrounding grass. Doolittle answered that the low end of the bridge will be on the west side, and it will shed off onto the grass.

Commissioner Reed asked if there is a time frame for the project. Doolittle answered that the plans should be finished and approved by this winter and construction to start spring/summer.

Commissioner Muller if it will be plowable in the winter and Doolittle answered that it will.

Commissioner Muller asked if it is a state initiative. Doolittle answered that it is a state program that was applied for. It encourages improved walking routes to school. If not restored than it would be closed off for safety reasons.

Liaison King Jr. asked about how much the funding is. Doolittle answered the question.

Folger commented that the area is easily accessible from both sides.

Liaison King Jr. asked if it will be expected to be done before the next school year. Doolittle commented that it is anticipated to be done during next fall, not necessarily before the next school year.

Motion to: approve **Appl. 23-39W, Town of South Windsor – 569 Griffin Rd** – IWA/CC application for the replacement of a pedestrian bridge on property located northerly of Henry Rd, and southerly of Griffin Rd. Residential (A-20) Zone.

There will be bonds of \$30,000 for installation and maintenance of erosion controls.

Was made by: Blondin
Second by: Jennings

Chairperson Kelly commented how this project will help the stream channel. It could give students opportunities for biology lessons in the area.

Commissioner Muller commented how the current bridge has held up well. He mentioned how the additional pathway will be an improvement.

Motion - carried.
Vote - unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairperson Kelly mentioned the new DEEP Stormwater Manual and new Erosion & Sediment Control Guidelines went live over the weekend. There will be no hardcopies, everything will be updated online. The manuals can give a better explanation of how someone can propose an alternative when things are being developed.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: Jeff Folger mentioned that an application was received, 250 Rye St. The area is currently forested. This application is a wetland map amendment. The property was created in 2012. The wetlands were flagged. Additional wetlands were found that were not picked up before. Folger discussed that he and Commissioner Kelly thought that the wetland map amendment would be best choice. This will require a public hearing

Motion to hold a public hearing at the next scheduled meeting, which is October 18, 2023

By Blondin, second by Jennings

Motion - carried.

Vote - unanimous

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to: adjourn at 7:43PM.

Was made by: Blondin

Second by: Jennings

Motion - carried.

Vote - unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Kowalik,
Recording Secretary

