

*Deborah W. Reid, AIC*  
RECEIVED JAN - 4 2024  
@ 1:43pm

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

**ACTION MINUTES:** 1/03/2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Barbara Kelly, Vice Chairperson John Phillips, John Blondin, Arthur Jennings, James McDonald, Dan Katzbek, Steven Cordeiro

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Richard Muller, Paul Cote

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Joe Durette

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

**COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:** None

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

Chairperson Kelly seated Alternate Durette for Commissioner Cote.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Chairperson Kelly noted that the Appl. will be postponed until the next meeting. Chairperson Kelly asked for public comment for items that were not on agenda. Joe Kennedy asked the Commission; the State has new erosion guidelines. He commented on an erosion problem at the intersection of Troy and Rye St. Vice Chairperson Phillips answered that the concern will be addressed tonight.

**PERMIT EXTENSIONS:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS:** None

**BONDS:** None

**MINUTES:** Minutes from Regular Meeting on 12/20/23: were approved by consensus as amended.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION:** Jeff Folger commented that there are 3 or 4 Eagle Scout projects ready to go. One scout will be putting plastic labels on catch basins and will be covering a whole neighborhood, informing neighborhood. Another will be constructing kiosks at the Town Hall trail. High School students will be containing Japanese Knotweed. A bridge to the Wapping Park trail is planned using the lowest impact methods and will have at least one Scout to contribute to the project.

**WETLAND OFFICER:** Jeff Folger commented that were a couple of storms. There has been minimal issues with the stability of construction sites.

Vice Chairperson Phillips read the legal notice.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Appl. 23-51W, Town of South Windsor- 372 Rye St – IWA/CC application for the removal of an existing culvert and improvements to a watercourse located easterly of Rye St and northerly of Troy Rd. Rural Residential (RR) Zone.

Jeff Dolittle, South Windsor Engineer, discussed 1946 aerial photo. Rye street used to go over Dry Brook where the culvert was. Sometime between 1946 and 1956, the culvert was abandoned, and Rye Street was moved to

the current location and stayed that way ever since. The berm is still currently there. There are two culverts. They are deteriorating, along with the berm associated with them. Action needs to be taken before something fails and endangers the current Rye St culvert.

Kevin Vincens from the Engineering Dept. presented photos of the culverts and existing berm, also a culvert that takes water off of Troy Road. Doolittle commented that Public Works took the trees down in the area to keep it stable, as well as to allow surveyors to map the area. Outlet side, the headwall is falling in, the berm is also in. The proposal is to remove the headwall, and pipes, and reestablish the stream bed. Vincens presented the plan and showed the streambed profile, matching the existing streambed. For seeding, Folger recommended a crown vetch seed mix.

Commissioner Katzbek asked if it will go under Rye Street. Jeff Doolittle answered that it will not go under.

Vice Chairperson Philips asked what are the currently equipment at the area for. Doolittle answered that they are installing silt fence.

Chairperson Kelly asked if they are just planning a gradual drop or a couple step down. Jeff Doolittle answered that they do not want to make it too steep, so a gradual drop is planned.

Vice Chairperson Phillips asked how they were planning to divert flow and erosion. Vincens answered that they will install coffer dams and will work on one channel one at a time.

Doolittle commented that they did some soil borings and found sandy soil and they intend to keep most of it on the site.

Durette asked if there is snow, how will that impact the project. Doolittle answered that it will just slow the progress. Hopefully will get started in the next month.

Vice Chairperson Phillips commented that they have visited the site. If there is a finding of significant impact, what are the alternatives. Doolittle answered that the alternatives would be to re-build the pipes and berm, which would be costly and would not serve a useful purpose and would take much longer. A do-nothing option would be a safety concern. The stream drops off several feet and will only get worse.

Jeff Folger commented that wetland flagging has been done by himself and has been accurately portrayed on the plan.

Chairperson Kelly asked for public comment.

Joe Kennedy commented that he is in favor and asked if they could make a woodchip walkway. Doolittle answered that a walk way isn't feasible, as the berm will be separated.

Folger commented that the benefits to the town are numerous.

**Motion to:** close the public hearing for **Appl. 23-51W, Town of South Windsor- 372 Rye St – IWA/CC** application for the removal of an existing culvert and improvements to a watercourse located easterly of Rye St and northerly of Troy Rd. Rural Residential (RR) Zone.

Was made by: Vice Chairperson Phillips

Second by: Commissioner Blondin

Motion - carried.

Vote - unanimous.



**Motion to:** finding of significant impact based on information on public hearing and working being done on watercourse.

Made by: Vice Chairperson Philips

Second by: Commissioner Jennings

Motion- carried.

Vote – unanimous.

**Motion of** a finding of no feasible or prudent alternatives that would result in lessor impacts to the wetlands. based on the information provided.

Made by: Vice Chairperson Philips

Second by: Commissioner Blondin

Vice Chairperson Phillips commented possibility of failure is large therefore should be removed and ignoring would lead to larger impact.

Motion- carried.

Vote – unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS: Appl. 23-51W, Town of South Windsor- 372 Rye St – IWA/CC** application for the removal of an existing culvert and improvements to a watercourse located easterly of Rye St and northerly of Troy Rd. Rural Residential (RR) Zone.

**Motion to:** approve **Appl. 23-51W, Town of South Windsor- 372 Rye St – IWA/CC** application for the removal of an existing culvert and improvements to a watercourse located easterly of Rye St and northerly of Troy Rd. Rural Residential (RR) Zone.

Was made by: Vice Chairperson Phillips

Second by: Commissioner Jennings

Motion - carried.

Vote - unanimous.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:** None

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion to:** adjourn at 7:51PM

Was made by: Commissioner Blondin

Second by: Vice Chairperson Phillips

Motion - carried.

Vote - unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Kowalik,

Recording Secretary

