

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY / CONSERVATION COMMISSION



ACTION MINUTES: 3-20-2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Barbara Kelly, Vice Chairperson John Phillips, John Blondin, James MacDonald, Richard Muller, Arthur Jennings

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steven Cordeiro, Dan Katzbek

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Joe Durette

STAFF PRESENT: Nicole Kowalik, Recording Secretary

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT: None

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

Chairperson Kelly appointed Commissioner Durette for Commissioner Katzbek.

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 02/21/24:

Page 2: third line; "Value" should be volume.

Were approved by consensus with corrections.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: None

WETLAND OFFICER: None

PUBLIC HEARING: None

NEW BUSINESS: Heggenhougan Farms, 375 Rye St – Determination that the land clearing and grading activities associated with a farming use is a use of right.

Matthew Gustafson, Wetland Scientist at All Points, on behalf of the applicant. Gustafson discussed that in 2020, the construction on the house was approved under the wetland's permit. There were activities that occurred 2020 through 2022, including altering of some wetlands and about 4 acres were cleared, 2.2 acres occurred to be in wetland areas. Jeff Folger reached out to landowner and the landowner contacted Gustafson at All Points to assess the impacts that were made and to establish immediate measures to stabilize and restore the wetland areas that have been cleared. Approximately, 0.42 acres of wetlands are located to the rear of the house. The areas are being used for livestock pens, pasture, etc. In the late fall, Jeff Folger reached out and the property owner immediately put down some mitigation measures in the form of seed and mulch stabilization to the entire cleared area. It has been assessed routinely in the winter. The property owner has voluntarily replanted native shrub materials to restore some of the wetland areas. The planned use for the areas that have been recently cleared are to use them as pastureland and are proposing a minor grading plan. The general idea is to take the high points and to grade them out into the steeply sloping areas to level them

off, which results to easier maintain pastureland. The wetland restoration plan will be completed in the spring. The property owner is working with the NRCS to place the areas into a farming easement for the next 10 years.

Chairperson Kelly asked if the area would not be described as a watercourse. Gustafson answered that it would be considered an intermediate watercourse. The area would be considered regulated resource that was impacted.

John Heggenhougan commented after he had purchased the property, he restored the house that was previously on property. He was not aware of the negative impacts that was done and wants to be able to fix any problems that arise.

Commissioner Jennings asked how it was found out. Heggenhougan answered that he had the property for 5 years. Jeff Folger asked him what his intended use of the property was. Heggenhougan told Jeff that he planned to restore the house and his intention to use the land for farming. In 2022, when the trees were being cleared closer to the brook. Jeff Folger contacted again asking where the barn was placed. Jeff Folger came to property and saw that the clearing was too close to river. Jeff Folger suggested to stabilize the area quickly.

Chairperson Kelly asked if there will be fencing to limit the pasture. Gustafson answered that there will be a fencing, this will protect the plantings and keep animals out of the areas.

Chairperson Kelly asked if AD1026 has been applied. Gustafson answered that Mr. Heggenhougan has reached out to the NRCS, however there is not anything formal in place.

Chairperson Kelly commented that since the applicant has been cooperating with the town there will be no violation.

Chairperson Kelly asked the commissioners if there are any other comments.

Vice Chairperson Phillips moves to a finding of the operations as described in the document 375 Heggenhougan Farms, South Windsor, CT prepared by All Points are permitted as of right under section 4.1A of the regulations.

Motion to: a finding of the operations as described in the document 375 Heggenhougan Farms, South Windsor, CT prepared by All Points are permitted as of right under section 4.1A of the regulations.

Made by: Vice Chairperson Phillips

Second by: Commissioner Blondin

Commissioner Jennings wanted to clarify if the grading is part of the motion. Gustafson answered that grading is limited to grading out the high points and grading it to the east adjacent to the wetland areas.

Commissioner Blondin commented that the plan is good to restore what had previously has been done to the land.

Motion - carried.

Vote - unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to: adjourn at 7:43PM.

Was made by: Vice Chairperson Phillips

Second by: Commissioner Jennings

Motion - carried.

Vote - unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Kowalik, Recording Secretary