

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

DRAFT MINUTES: September 7, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Kelly, John Blondin, Adam Reed, John Phillips, Paul Cote, Jim Macdonald,
Richard Muller

ALTERNATES PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Folger, Sr Environmental Planner
Caitlin O'Neil, Recording Secretary

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT: None

Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Phillips motioned to add public input to the agenda as it was accidentally deleted. Commissioner Blondin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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: 07-06-22. Commissioner Blondin motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Senior Environmental Planner Jeff Folger commented that they had some requests for scout projects, specifically a story book trail outside of Town Hall. Commissioner Phillips commented that the scout would further coordinate this project with Parks and Recreation and the library. Mr. Folger and Commissioner Phillips explained the premise of a story trail, the scout would take pages of a children's book and put them at stations along the trail, by the time someone had looped around trail they would have finished a book. Chairperson Kelly questioned if the book would get rotated throughout the year. Commissioner Phillips responded yes.

Jeff Folger commented that he recently helped at an event at the Native American Village at Wood Memorial Library. He commented that the theme of the day highlighted plants and animals and he created a display on invasive plants that was presented to attendees.

WETLAND OFFICER:

Jeff Folger commented on the change of weather in recent weeks, specifically the increase in rain. He added that they have had issues with the Pleasant Valley School site. Mr. Folger reviewed some of the issues that site had been experiencing, such as an aquifer being hit during excavation. Mr. Folger commented that the contractor has agreed to hire a limnologist to develop a maintenance plan for Spring Pond, which had taken a hit as well. Mr. Folger commented that other construction sites around town have not had issues,

Commissioner Muller questioned if it was odd for an aquifer to be so active. Jeff Folger responded that this was unusual, especially given the drought this summer. Commissioner Muller questioned if there was anything more that could have been done to prevent these issues. Mr. Folger commented that only other way to know would have been requiring deep geological boring. Additionally, there is a 9 to 10 foot clay layer in the lower soil, which is unusual for this area. Chairperson Kelly questioned if there would be a curtain drains. Mr. Folger responded that these would be incorporated along deep cuts for utilities and

underneath the foundation. Chairperson Kelly commented that future projects would need further engineering details.

PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Appl. 22-30P, Hyaxiom, 195 Governors Highway** – Conservation application for a driveway extension and installation of stormwater management measures, on property located southerly of Governors Highway and easterly of Main Street. Industrial (I) zone.

Tim Griffing, Senior Project Engineer with Loureiro Engineering Associates reviewed the proposed driveway and drainage analysis. Mr. Griffing explained that during his comments he would focus on the stormwater plan and erosion and sediment control measures, which ties into conservation review. Mr. Griffing reviewed the existing site, the majority of work would happen on existing pavement and development on the site. In the large grass area, they would be adding a new paved driveway. He commented that he would demonstrate how these changes would not have an adverse impact. Currently, the parking lot drainage system drains to Governor Highway and the grass area pitches towards the driveway and would enter this same drainage system. Mr. Griffing explained that the change they are proposing would ultimately maintain the existing drainage pattern.

Tim Griffing reviewed the proposed work for the site. There would be a total of 29,000 square feet of work to be done on the site, which would include seal coating the existing pavement, addition of short retaining walls, installment of new pavement and concrete pad for storage. Mr. Griffing reviewed the drainage system for the site, all water from the site would continue to exit to the Governor's Highway drainage system. Mr. Griffing commented on the added retention pond on the site and explained that the water from the site would either be captured in the shallow swale and diverted to Governor's Highway or it would be captured by the retention basin.

Mr. Griffing then discussed the erosion and sedimentation control measures for the site. These measures include erosion and sedimentation matting, silt fencing and silt sacks. Mr. Griffing commented that there is an existing body of water approximately 250 feet west of the existing parking lot.

Mr. Griffing then reviewed the drainage analysis for the application. Mr. Griffing commented that the net change to the area would be zero as they are not changing where the water would be leaving the site. Mr. Griffing reviewed the methodology for the analysis and the calculations. Mr. Griffing summarized that there would ultimately be a reduction of discharge leaving the site, therefore, improving the sites drainage.

Commissioner Blondin questioned if there was a maintenance plan for the retention pond. Tim Griffing commented that it would just be maintained by weed whacking and mowing slopes.

Commissioner Philips questioned if all stormwater would go into the street and if the roof water would go enter into the shallow swale. Tim Griffing commented that they would not be touching the roof, therefore, there would not be a change to where the roof water currently drains. Mr. Griffing reiterated that the water leaving the site would not be increased, it would remain the same.

Commissioner Muller confirmed that the water traveling west to the swale was included in Mr. Griffing's numbers. Mr. Griffing confirmed this information and explained how the proposed plan would be reducing water exiting the site due to the newly proposed retention basin. Any water that enters the basin would be retained in this basin and would then be infiltrated into the ground. Commissioner Muller questioned the impervious coverage. Tim Griffing commented that the impervious coverage would be covered with Planning and Zoning Commission, he added that he was focused on the site drainage for tonight's application. Chairperson Kelly and Commissioner Muller briefly commented on their concerns with impervious coverage and how it would affect site drainage. Mr. Griffing commented that he was asked by Planning and Zoning to demonstrate compliance and he would be working with them to satisfy any concerns with impervious coverage.

Chairperson Kelly commented that she felt this application was a positive improvement to the site by providing additional stormwater treatment that currently does not exist now. Mr. Folger requested the applicant consider installing trap hoods on the new basins to capture floatables.

Chairperson Kelly asked for public comment and explained the focus of the Commission was stormwater and sediment control.

Kathy Young of 1136 Main Street commented on concerns with a drainage pipe that she believed to be from this property. Jeff Folger and Tim Griffin explained that the pipe Ms. Young was referring to is a pipe that belongs to 90 Bidwell. Jon Radulski, representative from Hyaxiom commented that there is currently a berm along the west side of the property, therefore all water would flow towards Governors Highway. Mr. Radulski and Mr. Griffing explained that they are only modifying the existing drainage, the water would still be moving in the same direction. Mr. Radulski explained the necessity of the new driveway for the business.

Linda Levack Dalpe of 1090 Main Street commented on concerns with salt potentially entering the detention basin. Additionally, she expressed concerns with her property already being wet and felt the proposed plan would attribute more water on her property. Tim Griffing explained that there would be an increase of water on the site and they have improved the mitigation efforts on the site with the proposed retention pond, which would also filter the water, the retention pond would allow for leeching over a period of days as it leaves the basin. Additionally, he added, there is currently a ridge to the west of the property. This ridge would reduce the effect of water entering further to the west. Jeff Folger and Tim Griffing further explained how the proposed stormwater plan would be beneficial to this site and how the basin should never overflow based on its stormwater design.

Chairperson Kelly reiterated the process of the retention pond, the water would infiltrate into the ground at a slow flow, the water passing through the soil improves the quality of the water. Commissioner Muller commented that it would be a sheet flow, which would help scrub the water as well. Chairperson Kelly agreed and commented that the water leaving the site would ultimately leave in better condition. Tim Griffing commented that he did calculate the water volume for the retention pond and the pond can more than adequately handle the projections.

Janet Prior 1042 Main Street commented on concerns with water coming from parking lot and entering the brook to the west of the property and ultimately draining to the meadow owned by the Audubon Society. Tim Griffing reviewed the piping system on the site.

Commissioner Muller questioned if there was an existing drainage issue on the site that the town was aware of. Mr. Folger commented that there was no drainage issue that the town is aware of at this time. Mr. Folger commented that some of surrounding industrial properties are much older and have no stormwater management, however, as these properties are sold and rebuilt the town requires that the stormwater becomes upgraded and brought up to existing standards. Chairperson Kelly commented that the application in front of them this evening is addressing the sites drainage and is also adding additional water quality measures.

Linda Levack Dalpe questioned where the catch basins would empty out. Tim Griffing responded that it would empty out to where it currently exits today, initially to Governor's Highway, unsure exactly where the town drainage system ultimately drains to. Mr. Griffin commented that it was important to note that wherever the water would be draining to, it would be less water with this plan in front of them. Janet Prior questioned if a pump could be installed in the drainage system. Tim Griffing explained that the purpose of this plan was to demonstrate stormwater management, a pump would not be considered for this type of use and site. Chairperson Kelly commented on the state's guidelines for how stormwater should be managed and created, a pump would go against the state's guidelines.

Chairperson Kelly asked if Jeff Folger had any additional staff comments. Mr. Folger responded that they had reviewed most comments. He added that the erosion and sedimentation control plan was adequate to maintain construction. Mr. Folger commented that the upgrade to the existing storm system should result in a net improvement for water leaving the site.

Chairperson Kelly asked if any Commissioners had any additional questions. There were no additional questions.

Commissioner Phillips motioned to approve with application with standard conditions. Mr. Folger commented that the bond amount should be \$5,000 for erosion and sediment control and \$5,000 for stormwater management. Commissioner Phillips requested additional conditions. The first would be trap hoods to be installed on any modified catch basin. The second was installation of a 4-foot sump on any new catch basins. Commissioner Blondin seconded the motion.

Commissioner Phillips commented that he appreciated the public participation. He commented that the majority of the water currently being discharged would not going to be changed. The addition of the new retention pond and of trap hoods, should also improve the quality of water being discharged. Commissioner Blondin concurred with Commissioner Phillips. Commissioner Muller echoed Commissioner Phillips adding that the additional amount of impervious coverage is rather small and would also be mitigated by retention basin, resulting in less outflow of water. Chairperson Kelly commented that she agreed that the erosion and sedimentation control measures were adequate. The motion was called. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review of the proposed Inland Wetland Regulation

Jeff Folger commented that the Commission was sent a copy of the updated regulations. He explained the goal was for the Commission to review regulations and confirm if they were suitable for a public hearing and then move to adoption. Commissioner Blondin commented in favor of the updates.

The Commission discussed some of the changes they wanted to see, mostly minor. One change that the Commission discussed and agreed on was changing the upland review distance from 80 feet to 100 feet. Mr. Folger commented that this was standard per DEEP. Chairperson Kelly commented that they used the DEEPs model regulations when constructing the regulations. Chairperson Kelly, Commissioner Phillip, Commissioner Muller and Jeff Folger agreed to meet one more time to make updates to the regulations. They would review these changes with the Commission again before setting a public hearing date.

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to: adjourn at 8:31pm

Was made by: Commissioner Blondin

Second by: Commissioner Philip

The motion carried.

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted:

Caitlin O'Neil

Recording Secretary