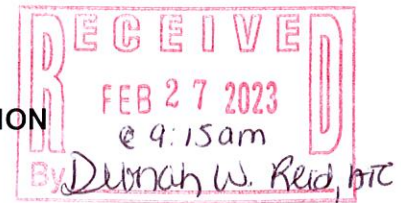


**TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY / CONSERVATION COMMISSION**



MINUTES: February 15, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Blondin John, Cote Paul, Jennings Arthur, Katzbek Dan, Kelly Barbara, Macdonald James, Muller Richard, Phillips John, and Reed Adam

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALTERNATES ABSENT: Durette Joe

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Folger, Sr. Environmental Planner
Tersee Flores, Recording Secretary

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:

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

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: The minutes of 2-01-23 were approved by consensus.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: None

Discussion on drafting a letter of support for the Cross-Town Trail. It was agreed that a letter of support will be drafted and sent to the Recreation Department.

Discussion on establishing a vegetative buffer on the west side of the sledding hill at Barbour Hill Road.

Chairperson Kelly inquired of Caldwell the status of planting trees along the west property line of the town owned sledding hill at Barbour Hill Road.

WETLAND OFFICER:

Jeff Folger mentioned regarding Pleasant Valley School the site is working well, the ground water is starting to slack off a bit, a meeting did take place last week with the Engineers and they are going to start digging some test wells to get a better handle on the ground water.

Commissioner Reed asked whether there is a new progress connecting the ground water on the site to the storm sewers on Long Hill Rd.

Mr. Folger said that a change order has been submitted, and the Town Engineer has been reviewing the plan.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion on the Cross-Town Trail location and design.

Kevin R. Grindle Associate of Barton & Loguidice Consulting Engineering Firm. Mr. Grindle was hired by the Town of South Windsor to assist the Walk and Wheelways Committee in regards to the Cross-Town Trail Project. He introduced Kenneth Sek, Christine Kiey, Ginny Hole and Skip Bourke representatives from the Walk and Wheelways Committee, in addition to John Caldwell, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

He presented the scope of the project and discussed in detail the proposed first phase, going from Wapping Park to Sullivan Avenue.

Chairperson Kelly and the Commissioner's asked, and made questions regarding the following:

- Identify permanent structures for approval by permit.
- Submit a permit for the entire first phase.
- Concern about introducing large amounts of pedestrians through undisturbed habitats.
- Identify sensitive habitats along the proposed trail route.

Chairperson Kelly discussed timeframe, which Mr. Grindle mentioned the timeframe to commit grant applications are due by March 1st. The State Bond Commission applications were already submitted. By 3rd quarter of this year they will have secured the funding they were looking for, and received acknowledgment by DEEP. In April the Legislative grant will be voted on before the session ends in June or possibly early summer. If it all goes well, the plan is to initiate construction end of year 2023.

Once the projects starts the time frame is 90 days or 3 months for full facing spring summer 2024.

Ginny Hole, Chairperson of the Walk and Wheelways Committee, discussed the connecting of neighborhoods, school, parks, and farmers markers, not to mention the benefit where surrounding towns are willing to work with us so the trails will connect. In addition, the connection with the CT River. Several letters were sent out to property owners who are supportive of the project.

Appl. #23-04W – Town of South Windsor – Pleasant Valley Road Culvert Reconstruction – **Determination of Public Hearing**, IWA/Conservation Commission application for the re-construction two culvert crossings of Pleasant Valley Road, including grading, and associated utilities. The areas are located east of Long Hill road and west of Clark Street.

Jeff Folger discussed the two culverts that are east of Long Hill, between Clark Street. There is a pipe crossing private property that conveys road drainage that the town is willing to do an upgrade. He mentioned the town wants to make improvements, rebuilding on the culvert instead of tearing it down. Also, the culvert that conveys Quarry Brook to the north will be replaced.

Motion to: Set a public hearing based on public interest.

Was Made By: Commissioner Phillips

Second by Commissioner Jennings

The motion carried.

The vote was unanimous

The hearing is scheduled to begin at the March 1st meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

OTHER BUSINESS: Open Government Initiative discussion.

Chairperson Kelly described the request by the Town Council to begin video recording future IWA/CC meetings. She described the method of self-recording by the Commission or Staff. A small video recorder will be mounted on a tripod and placed in the meeting room so as to view the presentation. No live streaming will occur. The SD card will be downloaded to the website within a day after the meeting.

The Commission felt that they would initiate the video record keeping at the September-October meetings to give time to work all of the bugs out of the process.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONTINUED:

Mr. Folger discussed the Walk and Wheelways Committee Trail soliciting letter of support for the grant from some of Commissions such as Open Space Task Force and Conservation Commission which is due by March 1st.

Motion to: Move that the Conservation Commission draft and issue a letter in support of the Walk and Wheelways Trail for the reasons mentioned.

Was Made By: Commissioner Phillips

Second by Commissioner Jennings

The motion carried.

The vote was unanimous

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to: adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

Was made by: Commissioner Muller

Second by: Commissioner Jennings

The motion carried.

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted:

Tersee Flores

Recording Secretary