

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

03:00 pm
Tom Ziegler

MINUTES: 11-01-2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Cote, Dan Katzbek

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Joe Durette

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 7:03PM

Chairperson Kelly appointed Alternate Joe Durette, to sit for 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: Jeff Folger handed out a DEEP flyer to the Commissioners regarding wetlands and wetlands regulation pertaining to agricultural operations.

BONDS: None

MINUTES: Minutes from Regular Meeting on 10/04/23: were approved by consensus as amended.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Jeff Folger discussed that three trail cams have been purchased. Our intern will be moving the trail cams to different locations month to month. They will be posting pictures on the Town website and Facebook book. There will be a new project starting at the Town Hall about managing Japanese Knotweed.

WETLAND OFFICER: Jeff Folger gave an update about 375 Rye St. The owner has hired an environmental scientist and will be making a formal presentation into two parts. One part would focus on reestablishing vegetation and the other part focuses on agricultural use. Folger mentioned that the construction sites are doing well.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Appl. 23-43W, ALTATWO Realty Co. LLC – 250 Rye St – IWA/CC application for a Wetland Map Amendment on property located southerly of Rye St and northerly of Kennedy Rd Industrial (I) Zone.

Commissioner Reed read the legal notice to the record.

Barbara Schmitt, license landscape architect and project manager at Design Professionals, seeks approval for wetland map amendment at 250 Rye St. Schmitt stated the property was flagged in 2012. Ian Cole, professional wetland scientist and professional soil scientist stated that in 2012 a wetland survey was done on

the property. Mr. Cole was asked to verify the delineation in 2021 and went to the site and agreed with most of the previous findings that there are two wetland features. The biggest difference between the two was that Cole's delineation is more expansive. The site drainage from east to west is very flat. The second wetland feature is an isolated pocket. The drainage as well is very flat, and the train tracks manipulate the surface run off. Ian Cole originally flagged the area but mentioned that a 3rd party visited the site as well to verify his findings. Cole brought Jeff Folger out there in 2022 to verify the delineation as well.

Commissioner Muller asked what would cause the ditch to be deeply substantial. Ian Cole answered that the site was been wooded for a long time. Cole believes that this is part of the reason why the delineation is more expansive.

Ian Cole mentioned that there is not a lot of water flow coming off the property because the area is very flat and wooded. The water mainly sits and migrates, slowly leaking out.

Jeff Folger commented that he passed out to the commissioners' aerial photos of the site with a wetland layer. Folger mentioned that the amendment that the applicant is seeking should be from our wetland map than what is currently on it.

Chairperson Kelly asked if anyone has visited the site. Vice Chairperson Phillips and Commissioner Blondin stated that they went to the site. Kelly stated that she had also visited the site and concurs with Mr. Cole's findings.

Jeff Folger comments that he concurred with the delineation with the field and believes that the plan is accurate.

Chairperson Kelly asked for the public if they have a comment. No public comment.

Motion to: close **Appl. 23-43W, ALTATWO Realty Co. LLC – 250 Rye St** – IWA/CC application for a Wetland Map Amendment on property located southerly of Rye St and northerly of Kennedy Rd Industrial (I) Zone.

Was made by: Commissioner Blondin

Second by: Commissioner Jennings

Motion-carried

Vote-unanimous

NEW BUSINESS:

Appl. 23-43W, ALTATWO Realty Co. LLC – 250 Rye St – IWA/CC application for a Wetland Map Amendment on property located southerly of Rye St and northerly of Kennedy Rd Industrial (I) Zone.

Motion to: approve **Appl. 23-43W, ALTATWO Realty Co. LLC – 250 Rye St** – IWA/CC application for a Wetland Map Amendment on property located southerly of Rye St and northerly of Kennedy Rd Industrial (I) Zone.

Was made by: Commissioner Blondin

Second by: Vice Chairperson Phillips

Vice Chairperson Phillips commented that there were numerous qualified individuals that went to the site, and everyone was in agreement which leads to being no doubt in presence and location of wetlands on the site.

Commissioner Muller commented that he agrees with Vice Chairperson Phillips.

Motion-carried

Vote-unanimous

App. #23-45W, Town of South Windsor – Dart Hill Rd – IWA/CC application for the reconstruction of Dart Hill Rd, and improvements to a watercourse crossing located northerly of Trumbull Lane and southerly of Newmarker Road. Rural Residential (RR) Zone.

Taylor Rodrigue, Project Engineer for the Town of South Windsor, discussed the application is located south of Newmarker Rd. The Town is proposing to remove two current paved leak offs and replace them with two catch basins. During construction, the wetlands will be temporarily impacted. Nothing will be done to existing 5x5 concrete culvert. The town of Vernon and neighboring properties were notified. In addition, further up the hill, a temporarily sedimentation basin along the road are planned in case of heavy rain during construction.

Chairperson Kelly asked if the sedimentation basins are temporarily or permanent. Rodrigue answered that they are temporarily. Jeff Folger comments how there is no place for the water to go within the road base during construction. Chairperson Kelly asked if the two catch basins will have deeper sumps. Rodrigue answered that they will, improving sediment into the brook.

Commissioner Blondin asked about the time frame. Rodrigue answered that the construction will start next spring.

Commissioner Muller commented that he noticed an asphalt spill way. Muller asked how the height will be adjusted for that. Rodrigue answered that, at the moment, the spill way will be curved instead of directing it down the slope and then putting in a catch basin. The slope will not be steeper than it currently is.

Rodrigue commented that there are a couple of temporary sediment basins planned to collect runoff, staying on the right of way during entire project, on town property.

Vice Chairperson Phillips asked if the elevations will be maintained of the roadway. Rodrigue answered that the areas where the road is extremely flat will have a slight pitch added to improve drainage.

Commissioner Durette asked how long the project will take and if there will be any road closure. Taylor answered that project will be done during all of construction season and no roads will be closed.

Kelly asked if they are redoing the base as well. Taylor Rodrigue answered that everything will be redone. Commissioner Muller asked if there have been issues. Jeff Folger answered no. They will be installing extra basins which will improve the situation so there is not as much gutter flow. Taylor Rodrigue commented that they are adding more drainage than there is currently on the road.

Chairperson Kelly asked if there are any public comments. No comments.

Motion to: approve **App. #23-45W, Town of South Windsor – Dart Hill Rd – IWA/CC** application for the reconstruction of Dart Hill Rd, and improvements to a watercourse crossing located northerly of Trumbull Lane and southerly of Newmarker Road. Rural Residential (RR) Zone.

Was made by: Blondin
Second by: Phillips
Motion - carried.
Vote - unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Jeff Folger mentioned there is trail maintenance issues at Major Donnelly Preserve. He received an email from John Caldwell and David Turkington. David Turkington did an assessment of the boardwalks. He believes that about 60 need to be replaced. There is dock by pond that is tipping and needs to be replaced with new footings. The estimate to replace the boardwalks and decking will be about \$25,000. They are asking the Conservation Commission's permission to spend out from the Conservation Open Space Maintenance fund.

Motion to: approve up to \$25,000 from the Conservation Open Space Maintenance fund to repair or restore the dock at the Major Donnelly Preserve, and replace boardwalks along the trail as needed.

Was made by: Blondin
Second by: Phillips
Motion-carried
Vote-unanimous

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to: adjourn at 8:15PM

Was made by: Vice Chairperson Phillips

Second by: Commissioner Blondin

Motion - carried.

Vote - unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Kowalik,
Recording Secretary