

MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Town of Granby
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: David Tolli, Fred Jones, Aurelle Locke, and Susan Okie

ABSENT: Vickie Dirienzo, Nicholas Dethlefsen and John Laudati

ALSO PRESENT: IWWC Agent Kate Bednaz and Land Use Coordinator Renee Deltenre

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tolli called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Seating of Alternates, if applicable

None

3. Action on the minutes of March 8, 2023

ON A MOTION by A. Locke seconded by F. Jones, the Commission voted 4-0-0 to approve the March 8, 2023 minutes as presented.

4. Permit Requests

- a. **Moosehorn Road Bridge – Town of Granby – Permit modification request for the proposed Moosehorn Road Bridge replacement over Moosehorn Brook within a regulated area. (Request for Agent Approval). Date of Submittal 3/9/23.**

Darren Wright of CHA Consulting, Inc. was present to discuss the proposed modifications and answer any questions the Commission had. After a gutter flow analysis deemed the original drainage system inadequate, an additional drainage system has been proposed for the west side of the bridge. This drainage system is required since the existing system on the east side of the bridge does not provide adequate capacity due to the proposed widening of the roadway of the reconstructed bridge and approaches. The drainage outlet on the east side of the bridge will remain as it currently exists with modifications made to the existing system of catch basins, and a new drainage system with an outlet will be constructed on the west side of the bridge. K. Bednaz conducted a site inspection and has no issues with the proposed modifications, which have already received approval from CTDOT and the Town Engineer. Since the proposed activities are within the Upland Review Area, K. Bednaz and the Commission discussed continuing with the application as an Agent review and approval.

- b. **33 Bushy Hill Road – S. Mertz – Permit modification request to construct a 600 square foot patio and retaining wall within a regulated area. Date of Receipt 4/12/23.**

K. Bednaz provided an overview of the application. The homeowner is looking to construct a patio, retaining wall and pathway within the upland review area that extends from the house down towards the pond. Per staff's recommendation, the applicant hired a Soil Scientist to delineate the wetlands' boundaries and a report was received prior to the meeting.

The proposed patio is roughly 32 feet from the pond and no fill will be removed from the site. Since the proposed activities are within the Upland Review Area, K. Bednaz and the Commission discussed proceeding with the application as an Agent review and approval.

ON A MOTION by A. Locke seconded by F. Jones, the Commission voted 4-0-0 to delegate the application to the IWWC Agent for review and approval.

5. Request for Review

- a. **34 Wells Road – M. Henebry – RFR to install a small concrete pad with irrigation pump on the bank of an existing farm pond. As of Right Determination 4/5/23.**

K. Bednaz provided an overview of the application, which consists of installing an electric irrigation pump to be used seasonally for irrigation of the upper and lower fields, as well as livestock watering needs. The pump will be placed on a 6 sq. ft. concrete pad on the bank of the existing farm pond and be fed from a new power line either from the barn or house.

6. Enforcement Order Hearing

- a. **201 West Granby Road – K. Wasilonsky – Tree removal activities conducted within the regulated area without approval.**

Property owners Katie and Kevin Wasilonsky were present to discuss the enforcement order and answer any questions the Commission had. They recently hired CT Tree Work to inspect and remove any damaged or diseased trees within their backyard, as they are looking to expand the existing yard space to accommodate additional farm animals and crops. They were unaware of any wetlands onsite. K. Bednaz conducted a site inspection nearly two weeks ago in response to a notification received by the town. Roughly 14 trees have been taken down and logs remain stacked onsite, there are multiple vernal pools throughout the property, the water table is very high, and many areas contain 6-8 inches of woodchips.

Restoration efforts were discussed at length, including vegetative plantings, removal of woodchips, leaving stumps in place, removal of logs, and drainage improvements. K. Bednaz reached out to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to seek guidance on designing a proper drainage plan for the paddock area so that water will bypass the livestock area. Concerns were raised regarding future plans and the potential for increased water on site now that so many trees have been removed. S. Okie questioned manure management and offered ideas on better containment strategies. K. Bednaz and the Commission discussed the terms of the Enforcement Order and potential modifications, including a September 1st deadline for woodchip removal, native plantings, and consultation with the NRCS regarding drainage.

ON A MOTION by S. Okie seconded by F. Jones, the Commission voted 4-0-0 to uphold the Enforcement Order with the discussed modifications.

7. Agent Report and Correspondence

a. Station 280 Wetland Mitigation/Escarpment Restoration Inspection Report 1/10/23

K. Bednaz provided a brief overview of the submitted report, which documents the clean up of the mitigation area and stated that she will conduct a site inspection within 4-6 weeks. Also included in the meeting packet was the Spring 2023 Farmington River Newsletter from the Farmington River Watershed Association.

8. Commissioner Reports and Correspondence

F. Jones informed the Commission of a phone call he received regarding potential manure stockpiling within or near a wetland on Barn Door Hills Road adjacent to the west branch of Salmon Brook. Upon inspection F. Jones and K. Bednaz did not find any manure but small piles of brush and hay. Conversation ensued with one of the neighbors regarding the deposition of material on steep slope above a wetland and the need to maintain stability of the banks. The Commission then held a general conversation regarding soils mapping, GIS and map amendments.

9. Adjourn

ON A MOTION by S. Okie seconded by F. Jones, the Commission voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Deltenre
Land Use Coordinator