

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Granby
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Nicholas Dethlefsen, Fred Jones, John Laudati, David Tolli, Susan Okie, Vickie Dirienzo, and Aurelle Locke

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tolli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Action on the minutes of April 12, 2023

ON A MOTION by F. Jones seconded by S. Okie, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to approve the April 12, 2023 minutes as presented. V. Dirienzo abstained.

3. Action on the minutes of May 10, 2023

ON A MOTION by A. Locke seconded by V. Dirienzo, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to approve the May 10, 2023 minutes as presented. F. Jones abstained.

4. Permit Requests

a. 50 and 50A Edgerton Road – J. Mercandante – Permit application to construct a single-family home and associated improvements within a regulated area.

Applicant representative Mark Reynolds, P.E. from Dutton Associates, LLC, was present to discuss the revised site plans and soil scientist report that were provided to the Commission this evening. The revised plans reflect the re-defined wetlands delineation per Wetland Scientist Jennifer Beno, as well as the revised driveway location, which has been shifted roughly four feet to the west. Six hundred linear feet of driveway is proposed within the Upland Review Area (URA), and the driveway will be paved 25 feet past the URA boundary. According to M. Reynolds, the amended driveway location is out of the wetlands and creates no direct impact. Test pits for the proposed septic location were dug and determined to be quite suitable.

Roughly 5,000 square feet of disturbance will occur within the URA in order to prepare the driveway and septic system installation. K. Bednaz stated that she would like more time to review the newly submitted material, especially considering the substantial change to the wetland's boundary. She ran through some minor edits that need to be made to the plan set and discussed her recent site visit with Commissioner Okie. Since the proposed activities are within the Upland Review Area, K. Bednaz proposed continuing with the application as an Agent review and approval upon completion of a secondary site visit and assessment of the revised documentation.

ON A MOTION by J. Laudati seconded by V. Dirienzo, the Commission voted 7-0-0 to delegate the application to the IWWC Agent for review and approval.

b. 285 Mountain Road – A. Antropov – Permit application to construct a single-family home and associated improvements within a regulated area.

K. Bednaz informed the Commission that she conducted a site visit today and it was discovered that work has been conducted within a regulated area without a valid IWWC permit. It appears that material has been relocated closer to the wetland boundaries, exposed soils need to be stabilized and a 30' x 60' hoop house has been constructed, which could also be in violation of the zoning regulations. An Enforcement Order is underway with a show cause hearing to be scheduled for the next regular meeting. At this time, the applicant has withdrawn their application without prejudice.

5. Public Hearings

a. 215 Salmon Brook Street – Town of Granby – Permit application to replace the sanitary sewer pump station within a regulated area.

Town Engineer Kevin Clark and DPW Director Kirk Severance were present to discuss the application and answer any questions the Commission had. The town is looking to replace an existing, failing pump station at Salmon Brook Park where the pump chamber was installed in 1974. The project includes relocating the new pump chamber closer to the existing parking lot in order to achieve the highest elevation possible and installing a new force main that will connect just downstream from the existing pump chamber. During an investigation, it was discovered that the joints within the existing gravity line beneath the parking lot are failing, which will require a trench to be cut in order to install new conduit for the control mechanisms. K. Clark discussed the pump chamber removal process and stated that the town is looking to complete the project in the fall. K. Bednaz provided a draft approval letter for review and consideration.

Public Comment

Martha Delaney of 51 Pendleton Road, Granby, questioned whether the proposed work would have any potential impact on the existing pond and when the sidewalks would be installed, and K. Severance addressed her concerns.

ON A MOTION by A. Locke seconded by F. Jones, the Commission voted 7-0-0 to close the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

ON A MOTION by J. Laudati seconded by V. Dirienzo, the Commission voted 7-0-0 to approve the application and approval letter as amended.

6. Enforcement Order Hearing

a. 45 and 45R Mechanicsville Road – E. Ducharme – Placement of compost, mafia blocks, trailer, and other fill materials in a regulated area without a valid IWWC Permit.

K. Bednaz conducted a site visit with Commissioner Tolli on May 15th after receiving concerns that Paines was depositing manure on-site, adjacent to a brook on the property located at 45R Mechanicsville Road. Upon inspection there was a stockpile of organic waste consisting of soil, sawdust, woodchips and manure, as well as the placement of mafia blocks. According to property owner Eric Ducharme, he is looking to re-establish the land as a farm field and the material has been stockpiled in the same location on and off for three years. K. Bednaz provided the Commission with a copy of the Enforcement Order, which outlined that all material be removed by September 1st and the mafia blocks be relocated outside of the regulated area.

It was recommended that the property owner submit a Request for Review (RFR) indicating all proposed activities with dates of deposition and removal or hire a soil scientist to conduct a wetlands delineation. E. Ducharme informed the Commission that since he purchased his home located at 45 Mechanicsville Road 15 years ago, the area in question has never flooded. He presented photographs documenting the removal of the manure and noted that the trailer will be removed before the end of the week. S. Okie indicated how moving the mafia blocks seasonally would be unrealistic and create more of a disturbance. E. Ducharme and the Commission deliberated on the best course of action, and K. Bednaz stated that she will meet Eric on site to nail down a new storage location, review FEMA mapping and discuss the permit process.

ON A MOTION by J. Laudati seconded by F. Jones, the Commission voted 7-0-0 to uphold the Enforcement Order and continue the show cause hearing to the next regular meeting.

7. Agent Report and Correspondence

K. Bednaz provided the Commission with an update regarding cleanup at the small engine repair facility located at 371 North Granby Road. Some improvements have been made; however, it was recommended that a two-week deadline be set and if compliance is not achieved by June 30th, then a formal Enforcement Order will be issued. J. Laudati recused himself from the discussion and the Commission agreed with the proposed plan. It was also noted that staff is currently working on updating the Fines Section of the Town Ordinance to comply with State Legislation and include the IWWC. The Commission briefly discussed the process for public hearing abutter notifications, including the order of items on the agenda. K. Bednaz recommended that applications be handled on a case-by-case basis, and if deemed necessary, the order of the agenda could always be amended.

8. Commissioner Reports and Correspondence

None

9. Adjourn

ON A MOTION by A. Locke seconded by F. Jones, the Commission voted 7-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Deltenre
Land Use Coordinator