



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not a verbatim transcription.

July 10, 2025

Members present: Susan Baker, Chair; Tim Bishop, Vice Chair; Keith Carlson (left at 9:15), Carson Fincham

Members Absent: Alan Pilch, Secretary; Noah Berkowicz, David Smith

Also present, Caleb Johnson, Inland Wetlands Agent; Steven Bronfield, Matthew Formica, Joe Santarsiero, Luis Jerez

I. Call to order:

Ms. Baker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II: Discussion:

1. **IW-25-25; 5 Palmer Court;** Summary Ruling application for installation of an 18'x36' inground swimming pool and stormwater management system within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner/Applicant: Steven Bronfield.
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/101600>

Mr. Bronfield reviewed the history of projects at his home, and explained that the pool location received approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals because with zoning changes over time it had become non-conforming. While the pool location is outside of the 100-foot upland review area (URA), a stormwater management system that was necessitated by various parts of the home projects would be within the URA.

Ms. Baker mentioned that part of the Board's approval of a previous application (IW-23-22) included a planting plan that as of now has not been started. Mr. Bronfield said that he was unaware of that requirement and that details had been handled by his architect.

Discussion ensued as to whether the previous planting plan made sense given the location of the stormwater management system and the mowing of invasives that Mr. Bronfield stated was being carried out to keep them under control. Board members agreed that with the changes in the current application, there needed to be a new plan; some suggestions were made and the applicant was asked to present a planting plan at the next meeting.

The Board also stated that the location of the pool fence and details about its construction needed to be added to the plans.

Application continued to July 24.

2. **IW-25-26; 59 South Street;** Summary Ruling application for decommissioning of a pump station, construction of new gravity sewers, and construction of a new force main from the new pump station to the South Street Wastewater Treatment Facility within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner: Town of Ridgefield. Applicant: Matthew Formica.
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/100527>

Mr. Formica presented the plan and reviewed the details of its construction and in particular the three wetlands crossings. Board members asked questions about how the area would be restored after construction and the planting plan that was requested by the Architectural Advisory Committee.

The Board requested until September 11 to review the detailed plans and render a decision.

3. **IW-25-27; 321 Florida Hill Road;** Summary Ruling application for proposed pond dredging within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner: Brian Truskowski. Applicant: Joe Santarsiero. <https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/101681>

Mr. Santarsiero presented the plans for dewatering the pond, dredging to 4' depth and potentially spreading the dredged material on another part of the property (the alternative would be to remove the spoils from the property). The plan is to do the work in August, unless it turns out to be an unusually wet month. There are contingency plans in case of a heavy storm to keep silty water from escaping. The location for spreading the material will require removal of approximately 5 dead trees and 5 live trees.

Mr. Bishop requested that the details for the spreading of materials on the property be clarified as to location of silt fencing and restoration of the area. He suggested also that the homeowner provide a planting plan along the eastern side of the pond to a depth of 15' minimum.

Application was continued to July 24.

III: Applications for Receipt(s): none

IV: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

1. 7 Caudatowa Drive – Wetlands Violation

Mr. Johnson showed pictures of a number of trees that had been cut down in or adjacent to wetlands.

Mr. Jerez explained that the trees posed a danger to his home and family, and the pictures confirmed that some of the trees (in particular a pine near the driveway) were not healthy. He indicated that he was not aware that he could not remove the trees without consulting the IW office.

Members explained that the stumps of the trees that had been felled into the wetland should be cut at the edge of the lawn area, leaving the upper trees and their branches where they fell. All of the cut up stumps and tree debris that is on the lawn area is to be removed manually (without heavy equipment) and either placed on the other side of the driveway or taken offsite. It was made clear that debris (including wood chips) should not be thrown into the wetland area.

Members stated that the felled trees should be replaced with 5 native trees of 2" caliper (approx. 10 ft) and protected with deer fencing. Mr. Johnson will help the homeowner with the details and location of replanting the trees. A Summary Ruling application will be required, which the Board stated should be made within 45 days, meaning by August 25 latest.

V: Other Business:

1. IW-23-2; 41 Governor Street – Planting bond release (\$35,960.00)

Mr. Johnson walked the property with Mr. Studer, landscape architect, and confirmed that more than 90% of the plantings were thriving. He presented pictures showing the plantings. The Boys and Girls club will replace all of the plants that did not survive.

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve the full amount of the bond. Mr. Fincham seconded. Motion carried unanimously

After the vote, the Board noted that the vote was not valid because one member had left the meeting and therefore there was no quorum present. The vote will be re-taken at the July 24 meeting.

2. 145 High Ridge Avenue- Peer Review Consultants

Mr. Johnson said that all requested information from the potential candidates had been received. Given time restraints, and absence of some of the Board members, it was decided that Mr. Johnson would canvass the members next week so that peer review consultants could be hired. Board members will need to comment by July 17 latest.

VI: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** June 26, 2025

Tabled until July 24 meeting.

- **Sitewalk Minutes:** June 29, 2025

Tabled until July 24 meeting.

VII: Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 9:36 PM.

Submitted by

Susan Baker, Chair