



**TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
INLAND WETLANDS BOARD
Web Based Meeting Hosted on Zoom**

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

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

April 10, 2025

Members present: Susan Baker, Chair; Alan Pilch, Secretary; David Smith, Tim Bishop, Vice Chair; Noah Berkowicz (new member).

Members Absent: Carson Fincham, Keith Carlson,

Also present, Caleb Johnson, Inland Wetlands Agent; Aarti Paranjape, Recording Secretary; Roman Rozinka, Eric Keller, Conservation Commission; NRVt team- Charles Robbins, Antonio DiCamillo, Brian Truskowski

I. Call to order:

Ms. Baker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Ms. Baker announced that Board of Selectman at their last meeting appointed and filled the vacant seat for Wetlands Board. She introduced Mr. Noah Berkowicz, new Inland Wetlands member. Mr. Berkowicz gave a brief introduction. He said his friend / prior IWB member Mr. Nissim informed him about the vacancy. They have been in Ridgefield for past two years and was looking for an opportunity to serve the town. Board welcomed Mr. Berkowicz.

II: Discussion:

1. **IW-25-9; 238 Mimosa Circle;** Summary Ruling application for excavation related to basement expansion within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner/Applicant: Roman Rozinka.

For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/100583>

Mr. Rozinka gave an overview of project. The existing porch at the back of the house is on piers, which will be rebuild on a foundation. There will be basement underneath which will be approximately fourteen and half times twenty-six feet long. The footprint of the house shall be same. The brook is approximately twenty-nine feet away from the new construction.

Mr. Bishop suggested a riparian buffer planting adjacent to the watercourse.

Mr. Pilch expressed concerns regarding the existing discharge pipe, which has eroded the soil and discharges to a neighboring property. He suggested a plunge pool or single chamber to provide infiltration in to ground before it enters the watercourse. He inquired about the septic location. He added some kind of bank stabilization like planted wattle would be good.

Discussion ensued on how the applicant shall install the drainage chamber and plantings on his own property, given the topography. Members suggested hiring a professional who will be able to give a planting plan with native plantings to mitigate the erosion.

Applicant shall submit a survey showing the drainage plan to address the runoff from roof and the new addition. A minimum of ten feet of buffer native plantings shall be shown on the survey plan, which will provide ecological function and avoid migration of sediments.

Discussion continued to next regular meeting on April 24, 2025.

III: Applications for Receipt(s):

1. **IW-25-10; 54 Ketcham Road;** Summary Ruling application for construction of single-family residence and associated grading within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner: Joseph Fossi. Applicant: Steven Trinkaus. *For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.*
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/100658>
2. **IW-25-13; 384 Branchville Road;** Summary Ruling application for installation of an above ground swimming pool with partial wrap around deck within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner/Applicant: Brandon Arcamone. *For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.*
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/100803>

Mr. Bishop motioned and Mr. Berkowicz seconded to receive the above applications. Motion carried unanimously.

Sitewalk scheduled on April 13 and discussion on April 24, 2025.

IV: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

None.

V: Other Business:

1. Norwalk River Valley Trail – Preliminary discussion

Mr. Robbins informed the Board about the Norwalk River Valley Trails project regarding the trail, which is proposed in the Town of Ridgefield called Ridgefield Ramble. The trail will have temporary impacts on the wetlands. The idea is to build boardwalks where needed which will not infringe on the wetlands. The trail from Norwalk will connect the trails passing through the towns of Wilton, Redding, Ridgefield and finally finishing in Danbury.

Mr. Truskowski added that the trail in Ridgefield would meander through Bobby's court, Picketts Ridge, Simpaug Turnpike and ultimately connect to the Wier Farm National Historical Park

Mr. DiCamillo, engineer for constructing the trail, gave an overview of the trails. He said the trail is proposed on Town property and on State parcels. Sixty percent of the trail is on State property. South of the trail is on State DOT land. It will be a ten foot wide stone dust trail with bituminous surface adjacent to the road crossings.

There will be extensive erosion controls established. Temporary disturbance will be at the crossings due to use of temporary matting. They will require State and Federal permits. He gave a timeline of the project, where permits shall be taken in Summer of 2025 and the project could start in January 2026. The state will regulate the trails going through their property.

He inquired what kind of permits should be required to submit to Wetlands Board. He also inquired under what property address he should file the application.

Staff said that the permit can be submitted under one Town property address and the description can mention all the rest of the parcels. Applicant mentioned that three town parcels should be involved where the trail is proposed.

Mr. Bishop acknowledged approaching the Board in the preliminary stages of the project. Board agreed that applicant shall submit Plenary ruling due to the significant impact and will require public hearing.

Mr. Pilch requested applicant to share the power point with the members.

2. Turtle Pond-

Ms. Baker mentioned that at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on April 9 the Turtle Pond beaver dam issue was raised.

Ms. Baker informed the Board that the Highway Dept. has been dealing with the beaver dams by removing them with heavy machinery, as these dams were causing overflow of water onto a town road, causing safety problems especially during winter. The pond is on private property supervised by a homeowner's association. The association does not feel that they have the funds to cover the cost for a beaver deceiver, which would be a more permanent solution to the problem.

Mr. Keller, Conservation Commission member, said that town is forced to spend money, but also agreed it is a safety issue. The Conservation Commission thinks that the private homeowner's association should cover the cost of remediation.

Ms. Baker said that since this was brought up with the BOS, a letter from Board suggesting a permanent solution should be sent. Members agreed to send a letter and also attend the meeting.

Discussion ensued on reaching out to counsel Mr. Beecher to understand if the Board can require the private entity to address the issue and be responsible for maintenance and expenses.

VI: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting: March 27, 2025**

Mr. Smith motioned to approve the above minutes with amendments. Ms. Baker seconded. Mr. Berkowicz abstained. Motion carried 4-0-1.

- **Sitewalk Minutes: April 6, 2025**

Mr. Pilch motioned to approve the above minutes. Ms. Baker seconded. Mr. Berkowicz, Mr. Bishop and Mr. Smith abstained. Motion carried 2-0-3.

VII: Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary