



**TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
Inland Wetlands Board
WEB BASED MEETING VIA ZOOM**

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

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

February 08 2024

Members present: Susan Baker, chair; Carson Fincham, Tim Bishop, vice chair; Ben Nissim, Alan Pilch, secretary; David Smith, Chris Phelps

Members absent:

Also present: Caleb Johnson, IW Agent; Kate Throckmorton, Laurie Kuhn, Robert Jewell

Call to order:

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

I. Discussion

1.IW-24-1; 220 Branchville Road: Summary Ruling application for replanting and maintenance of native vegetation within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. *Statutorily received on January 25, 2024. Owner: The Leir Retreat Center Inc. Applicant: Laurie Kuhn*
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/94313>

Ms. Throckmorton gave an overview of the project. The site has approximately ten acres. The area of clearing was on the western side where the plantings are proposed. The clearing was reported to the Town office and the work was immediately stopped.

The wetlands run across the affected area. The affected area abuts a wetlands garden, and includes phragmites and understory trees. Some of the trees removed were dead ash, along with understory brush which was piled in the wetlands.

Mitigation includes plantings along with the removal of a shed which was a result of encroachment by a neighbor. Lawn will be removed where the shed was and replanted with native plants.

The existing shrub roots and herbaceous ground cover are intact and the idea is for them to grow back and it will be monitored.

Forty-five trees will be planted to enhance the existing tree cover. Some trees are added along the driveway to add some buffer.

Mr. Pilch suggested if Salix discolor to be swapped with some other although he said the willows might survive.

Ms. Throckmorton confirmed that she would swap and plant mix of Nyssa sylvatica.

She added that if Board is okay she would like to remove the brush as soon as possible so that the roots can grow back. The plantings will also be completed before summer.

Following special conditions were stated:

1. The revised planting plan shall show the swapped plants as discussed.

Mr. Pilch motioned to approve the summary ruling with special and standard conditions. Mr. Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Publication on February 15 and effective date is February 16, 2024.

2.IW-24-2; 25 Seymour Lane: Summary Ruling application for construction of single family home and associated sitework within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. *Statutorily received on January 25, 2024. Owner: Ferrandino Enterprises LLC. Applicant: Jason Ferrandino.*
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/95248>

Mr. Jewell, attorney for the applicant, said that correspondence was received by the applicant from the soil scientist hired by a neighbor stating that there are discrepancies and some encroachment of the neighbor's property by the applicant. Due to the unavailability of the surveyor and soil scientist, the applicant is asking to continue the discussion to the next meeting when they will address the claims of the neighbor with report from their soil scientist and surveyor. The board agreed to continue the discussion to the February 22 meeting.

III: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

None.

IV: Other Business:

None.

V: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** January 11, 2024

Mr. Nissim motioned to approve the above meeting minutes. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Special meeting:** February 01, 2024

Mr. Phelps motioned to approve the executive meeting minutes. Mr. Fincham seconded. Mr. Bishop abstained and Mr. Nissim recused. Motion carried 5-0-2.

- **Sitewalk Minutes:** February 04, 2024

Mr. Pilch motioned to approve the above meeting minutes. Mr. Phelps seconded. Mr. Bishop abstained. Motion carried 6-0-1.

VI: Adjourn

Hearing no further Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.

Submitted by

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary
(via Zoom recording)