



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

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

March 23, 2023

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

Members absent: Chris Phelps; Tracey Miller

Also present: Caleb Johnson (IW Agent); Aarti Paranjape, Recording Secretary; Michael Mazzucco; Steven Licare

I. Call to order:

Ms. Baker called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

II: Application(s) for Discussion:

- 1. (Contd.)IW-23-3, 87 Silver Hill Road,** Summary Ruling Application for construction of Single Family home, septic, pool and associated work within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner: Bennet & Gianna Velocci. Applicant: Michael Mazzucco.
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/90687>

Mr. Mazzucco presented the revised plan to the Board. He said as per recommendations, the dwelling has been shifted ten feet, making it further away from the wetlands. The patio has been redesigned. The silt fence and construction entrance has been revised. The limit of clearing has been moved further from the wetlands. He added that a letter from Ms. Jaehnig was uploaded on the portal. He read the letter which states that five pit holes were dug and confirmed that there are no wetlands soils in the area of concern from the last meeting.

Mr. Pilch appreciated the revisions and that the applicant has revised the clear limits which ultimately creates a larger buffer area between the woodlands and the clearing.

Mr. Fincham expressed concern with the drainage discharge pipe directed towards the neighbors property, and said its not a wetland issue however it could be a neighbor concern.

Mr. Mazzucco said that the drainage is designed to hold two-year storm event.

Ms. Baker confirmed that the limit of lawn noted is the clearing line as shown. She expressed concerns as future owners could clear the wooded area if there are no well-demarcated lawn limits.

Mr. Pilch, suggested marking the limit of lawn marked with two-man boulders. The boulders can be placed at the intersection of the clearing and wooded area.

Following special conditions were stated:

- 5 two-man boulders to be placed starting at the south east corner near the neighbor's property and then at each bend where the clearing and the wooded area meet.
- Removal of old construction debris and other dumped material within the wooded areas.

Mr. Pilch motioned to approve the Summary Ruling Application with above special conditions and standard conditions. Mr. Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Publication date is March 30 and effective date is March 31, 2023.

III: Application(s) for Receipt:

1. **IW-23-8: 36 Old Mill Road;** Summary Ruling Application for pond dredging, construction of sediment forebays, stream armoring and mitigation plantings for wetlands enhancement. *Owner: Phillip Pilla. Applicant: Tracy Chalifoux. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.*
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/90835>
2. **IW-23-9: 46 Minute Man Rd.** Summary Ruling Application for first and second floor addition on the existing deck footprint within the upland review area of wetlands. *Owner: Lee & Sheri Preece. Applicant: Rick Depalma. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.*
<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/91080>

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

Sitewalk is scheduled on April 02 and discussion on April 13, 2023.

IV: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

Ms. Baker updated that in the near future two violations applications will be submitted.

V: Other Business:

1. 32 Loren Lane.

Mr. Johnson gave an overview of the situation at the property and surrounding area. He said that there is culvert on the Mamasasco road. The culvert has drainage pipes coming into the wetland. A stream is running in the backyard of Mr. Licare's property. The well on his property has contamination due the runoff from the stream. The homeowner would like to divert the stream away from his property. The property behind his belongs to State of Connecticut, and Mr. Buccitti from DPS said that DEEP will have to be contacted for any work to be done in that area.

Mr. Bishop inquired about the well casings. If it has steel casings, that can be extended.

Mr. Pilch said that if the well is shallow, the Coliform bacteria can be detected in water.

Members agreed that homeowner should check with Health department for the well completion report which will shed some information with the status of well installation.

Mr. Johnson will contact DEEP to check into the watercourse on the state's property and how to handle the work associated with it.

The discussion continued to April 13, 2023.

2. Sophia Dr, Bogus Road, Neds Mountain Easement-Main Replacement-Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut

No one attended the meeting from the team of Aquarion.

Following questions to be inquired:

1. Please identify and show where the stabilized construction entrance is on the map.
2. There are two trees (one 24" and a Beech that is 20") that the new line goes between. There is 26 feet between them, yet the line does not go down the middle between them. Is there a reason that the line can't be equidistant between the two trees? It would make it more likely that both would survive
3. How much will it be necessary to cross the stream with vehicles during construction?
4. We note there is a 6" plastic overflow outlet for the stream diversion. Will this go directly into the stream in such a way as to avoid erosion on the banks?
5. When excavating the stream bed for the pipe, will the soil be put on the banks and noting the stream bed?

6. Was a sleeve for the part of the pipe that goes under the stream bed considered? That way, if the pipe were to need to be replaced, it would not require digging up the stream bed.

Discussion ensued regarding the submission of application by the Aquarion water Company.

Mr. Fincham expressed concern for the Water company exempting to take permits or approval from the Board. He added that this exempt was more due to the opinion published by the Utility company in 1990. He added as long as the utility companies keep the Town/Board informed for the scope of work and follow the informal review process, it should be okay.

3. Rail Trail Tree Cutting. % Chair

Ms. Baker informed the Board, that along with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Marconi, they visited the rail trail where Eversource is clearing the trees close to the proximity of the high-tension wires.

She added that Eversource mentioned that they don't require approval from the Town Wetlands Board.

Ms. Baker expressed concerns and contacted DEEP, where they commented that unfortunately, utilities companies and Siting Council don't require approval from local wetlands Board, however the Board can ask them for mitigation planting to protect the wetlands and the wildlife.

She added that, Eversource stated that the communication will be between the First Selectman's office and not directly with the Inland Wetlands Board.

Members agreed that it will be beneficial if First Selectman can advise Eversource to contact the wetlands Board regarding the clear cutting. The NDDB site (Natural Diversity Database) should be checked for any threatened or endangered species in the rail trail area.

Sitewalk is scheduled on April 02, 2023.

VI: Approval of Minutes:

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** March 09, 2023

Mr. Smith motioned and Mr. Pilch seconded to approve the above minutes. Mr. Smith Abstained. Motion carried 4-0-1.

- **Sitewalk Minutes:** March 19, 2023

Mr. Pilch motioned and Mr. Fincham seconded to approve the above minutes. Mr. Smith abstained. Motion carried 4-0-1

VIII: Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:11 P.M.

Submitted by Aarti Paranjape,

Recording Secretary