



## TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

### APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

March 11, 2021

Members present: Patricia Sesto: Chair, Susan Baker: Vice Chair, Tim Bishop, Tracey Miller (joined at 7:04PM), Alan Pilch, Kory Salomone, David Tatge

Also present: Agent, Aarti Paranjape, Office Administrator; Charlie Fisher, Paul DeStefano, Milone and Macbroom, Tory Sidoti, Mr. & Mrs. Valentino, James Kelly, Kitsey Snow, RCC.

#### **I: Call to order**

Ms. Sesto called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

#### **II: Discussions:**

- 1. #IW-21-12: 45 South Street**, Summary Ruling Application for design and construction of approximately 2,510 feet of an 8-foot-wide combined-use walkway along Farmingville Road and Ligi Way in the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner/Applicant: Town of Ridgefield. Authorized agent: Tory Sidoti.*

<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/79894>

Mr. Charlie Fisher, former Town of Ridgefield Engineer and Paul Destefano presented the application.

Mr. Fisher informed the members that the town had proposed a sidewalk during the 1990's when Ligi's Way was originally constructed and it was not pursued. The currently proposed sidewalk will connect the sidewalk at the Recreation Center and extend to the Rail Trail which terminates in Branchville. The proposal consists of a combination of cantilevered wooden boardwalks, paved sidewalks, and bridging. The walkway will be on the eastern side of the Ligi's Way and not infringe on the wetlands. The cantilevered sections will use a single post construction.

Mr. DeStefano added the walkway will have a an extension to the east with plantings and an observation deck. This will be at grade with some fill in upland review areas. The plantings will provide a sense of boundary.



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He explained the footings for the boardwalk sections will be posts inserted into a drill shaft that is least ten feet deep. The equipment will be sitting on the road where the drills will hang over.

Ms. Sesto inquired about helical piles, noting they have a small disturbance area which is especially valuable when working in the wetlands area.

Mr. DeStefano stated he could not speak to why the pier system proposed was chosen, although he knows limited wetland disturbance was a priority.

He added that the Town had to be thorough with the plans when submitting to the State of Connecticut. The Town will be coordinating with State DOT.

The staging area will be on Ligi Way, which will be closed during construction. There is no tree removal involved as the vegetation is very sparse in their work area. The grading will be done on the side slopes. There will be enough room on the north of the observation deck to stage the equipment.

Ms. Sesto inquired if the applicant has looked into the permeable concrete and permeable pavers.

Mr. Destefano said that he believed permeable paver/concrete cost is prohibitive. The boardwalk is constructed of treated wood to withstand the weather. The product proposed will be best for the environment.

Ms. Miller stated to use safe treatment or no treatment on the wood used for boardwalk.

Discussion ensued regarding the wood used for boardwalk. Ms. Sesto expressed concerns of the use of Ipe wood and their harvesting practices. Suggestions were made by members to use the wood from the harvesters who practice sustainability.

Mr. Pilch inquired about the stability of slopes in regard to the wetlands. He suggested use of wet meadow seed mixes to stabilize the slopes. Mr. DeStefano stated that they will use geotextiles material to cover the slopes. The applicant agreed to suggestions by members like New England and wetland seed mixes.

Ms. Snow from the Ridgefield Conservation Commission (RCC) asked if the applicant has thought about stone dust to be used for the pathway. She asked if the planting plan will it include native plants. Members confirmed they are native.

Mr. DeStefano stated stonedust paths are hard to maintain especially during winter. The idea is to keep the trails open during winter with shoveling and plowing.



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Ms. Sesto stated at the next meeting the applicant will provide the additional information to the members:

- Drilling machine specifications
- Boardwalk tread material
- Permeable pavers vs impervious pavers
- Stabilizing the slopes with wetland mixes/ erosion seed mixes

The applicant will be back on March 25, 2021 with additional information.

2. **#IW-21-13, 16 Fulling Mill Lane**, Summary Ruling Application to install an inground pool and associated sitework in the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Joseph Valentino. Applicant: Sara De Mici.*

<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/79309>

Mr. Kelly presented the application. He said the applicant proposed a 20x40 foot pool. The location proposed is the only feasible location which is in between the wetlands. The excavated material will be trucked away and will not be used for filling.

Ms. Sesto inquired about how the applicant proposes to dewater the excavation. She suggested the options of pumping into the silt sac or into an area lined into filter fabric and hay bales.

Mr. Pilch agreed the silt sac would be the best practice to use, to which Mr. Kelly agreed

Mr. Kelly also agreed to reroute the house and driveway drains away from the wetlands, utilize a no backwash filter system, and to include mitigation planting of sedges, ferns along the edge of the lawn between the wetland flags 7-11 at a depth of ten feet.

Ms. Sesto stated following conditions of approval:

- Silt fence be placed between the length of the access path and wetlands and then extend it along the east side to limit the area of disturbance.
- Dewatering associated with pool excavation to be directed into the filter sac
- The equipment pad for the pool equipment shall be placed between shed and the proposed pool
- Driveway and roof drainage will be discharged away from wetlands.
- A no backwash system will be used.



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- 10-foot-deep strip of mitigation planting shall be installed between wetland flags 7-11 and consist of native New England plantings such as sedges and rushes.
- Correct the site plan to note that the excavated material will be removed from the site and will not be used as fill on the property.

**Mr. Bishop motioned to approve the Summary Ruling Application with normal standard and special conditions and the additional special conditions as above, including the bond to be posted. Mr. Tatge seconded. Publication date is March 18, 2021 and effective date is March 19, 2021.**  
**Motion carried 7-0-0.**

### III: Applications to be received:

**Mr. Salomone motioned, and Ms. Baker seconded to receive the below application. The site walk is scheduled for March 21, 2021 and discussion on March 25, 2021.**

1. **#IW-21-15, 41 Governor Street**, Summary Ruling Application for additions and associated site work within the upland review area of the wetlands. *Owner: Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield Inc. Applicant: Robert R. Jewell, Esq. For scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.*

<https://ridgefieldct.viewpointcloud.com/records/80213>

### IV: Administrative Approvals:

None

### V: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

10 Kendra Court; #2020-079-WV

Ms. Sesto suggested that the homeowner should be informed about the deadline date for submission of the application to the remedy for violation.

### VI: Other Business

1. 31 Green Lane (Historical Wetlands Permit)



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Mr. Pilch will schedule the inspection following week as the weather will be favorable with all the snow melted.

### 2. Fee Structure

No discussion was held.

### VII: Approval of Minutes:

**Inland Wetlands Meeting – February 25, 2021**

**Sitewalk Minutes –March 07, 2021**

Mr. Pilch requested the minutes of the February meeting be amended to describe the soil between the level spreader units below the solar arrays as being unaltered. This is important as it details how infiltration will be achieved.

**Mr. Salomone motioned to approve the Inland Wetlands Board minutes as amended and the site walk minutes as drafted. Ms. Miller seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.**

### VIII: Adjourn

Hearing no further discussion, Ms. Sesto adjourned the meeting at 8:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape  
Recording Secretary