



## TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

### APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

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

October 22, 2020

Members present: Patricia Sesto: Chair, Susan Baker: Vice Chair, Tim Bishop (joined at 7:09PM), Tracey Miller, Alan Pilch, Kory Salomone, David Tatge

Also present: Beth Peyser: Inland Wetlands Agent, Aarti Paranjape: Office Administrator, Erik Keller: Conservation Commission, John Casey

#### I: Call to order

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

#### II: Discussions:

1. (Contd.) **#2020-046-SR: 13 Golf Court for installation of an in-ground swimming pool and associated site work within the upland review area of wetlands. Owner/Applicant: Kaile Rudy Ferreira. Received on August 27, 2020. 65 days to render a decision is October 31, 2020**

The applicant has requested to continue the discussion to Nov 12, 2020, and requested an extension until December 10, 2020 via staff communication.

2. (Contd.) **#2020-047-SR, 155 Silver Spring Lane Application to remedy an existing violation (File # 2020-044-WV) which includes regulated activity in wetlands and the upland review area of wetlands. Owner/Applicant: John Casey. Received on August 27, 2020. 65 days to render a decision is October 31, 2020.**

John Casey, applicant, presented the revised restoration plan. His plan includes a 2 to 5-year management plan that will transition from the current state, eliminate invasive species, reestablish meadow species, and ultimately provide shade trees.

Ms. Sesto discussed the tree whips and recommended deer protection. She added that in order for staff to determine compliance, the applicant should provide the number of trees and shrubs to be planted at each stage along with a planting timeline. Mr. Casey said he plans to install a four-foot deer fence around each whip. He said the area is 6000 square feet and he proposes to plant around 30 trees.



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Ms. Miller commended the efforts of the applicant but does not support the use of Roundup as suggested by the applicant. The use of chemicals near the wetlands could have a negative effect on the wetlands. She suggested using other more natural methods for the eradication of the invasive bamboo or spot application of the herbicide if absolutely necessary. Pulling the rhizomes and applying vinegar is an option, as is applying Rodeo instead of Roundup near the wetlands.

Mr. Pilch stated glyphosate can be a very effective herbicide. The applicant will have to mow for a couple of seasons before planting of meadow mix, trees, and shrubs for the mitigation to be effective. Mr. Pilch also suggested the applicant install six feet of deer fence as opposed to four feet.

Chair Ms. Sesto summarized the discussion with the following restoration plan:

- Year one through September 30, 2021: regularly mow, spot application of herbicide and mechanical pulling the invasive non-native species.
- Year two through September 30, 2022: continue mowing and removal of the shoots.
- Year three through September 30, 2023: seed with the meadow mix as stated in the narrative and install trees.
- Year four through September 30, 2024: installing shrubs, consulting with a landscape architect hired by the applicant.

Ms. Peyser said the annual inspection will be conducted at the end of September and continue for the next five years. The first inspection will be on September 30, 2021.

Ms. Sesto suggested a row of boulders, spaced 15-20 feet along the edge of wetland, to define the limit of lawn boundary. The line would follow the wetland boundary, then at wetland flag 5 it would continue to the northern property line. The applicant will submit the planting plan at the end of year three.

Mr. Keller commented on behalf of Conservation Commission that the application of concentrated vinegar should be tested before applying any herbicide. He has been successful using this method on invasive phragmites.

The following special conditions of approvals were stated by the Board:

1. Year one through September 30, 2021 regularly mow, spot application of herbicide and mechanical pulling the invasive non- native species.
2. Year two through September 30, 2022: continue mowing and removal of the shoots



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3. Year three through September 30, 2023: seed with the meadow mix as stated in the narrative and install trees, and submit planting plan for the following year for shrubs.
4. Year four through September 30, 2024: install shrubs.
5. Boulders placed at a minimum spacing of 15 feet at the boundary of the wetlands from flag 2 to 5 and then straight North to the property boundary.
6. Annual inspections starting September 30, 2021 for the next five years.

While the board recommends deer fencing, it is ultimately up to the applicant to ensure the plants thrive by means of his choosing.

**Mr. Pilch motioned to approve the Summary Ruling Application with special conditions of approval, Ms. Miller seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0. Publication date is October 29, 2020 and effective date is October 30, 2020.**

3. **#2020-052-SR, Assessor's ID: D-14-0087 at Ramapoo Road to construct a single family residence and associated sitework including driveway within the upland review area of wetlands. Owner: Cohan George M. Trustee. Applicant: Michael o'Mahoney. Received on September 10, 2020. 65 days to render a decision is November 14, 2020.**

The applicant has requested a continuation to Nov 12, 2020.

#### **III: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:**

Ms. Peyser informed the board members of a complaint about the property located at 824 Ethan Allen Highway for activity and earth disturbance in the regulated area without a permit. She has an inspection scheduled with the property owner on October 23, 2020.

#### **IV: Correspondence:**

None.

#### **V: Approval of Minutes:**

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting – October 08, 2020**
- **Aquifer protection Agency Meeting Minutes – October 08, 2020**

**Ms. Baker motioned to approve Inland Wetlands Board and Aquifer Protection Agency minutes as submitted, Mr. Tatge seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.**



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#### **VI: Adjourn.**

Mr. Pilch informed the board about his ongoing research regarding the application fee structure. The application fee structures within the neighboring municipalities are completely different and comparing them will be apples to oranges. He is continuing to work on it.

Hearing no further discussion, Ms. Sesto adjourned the meeting at 7:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape

Recording Secretary