



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD Inland Wetlands Board

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

February 11, 2021

Members present: Patricia Sesto: Chair, Susan Baker: Vice Chair, Tim Bishop, Tracey Miller, Alan Pilch, Kory Salomone, David Tatge

Also present: Agent, Aarti Paranjape, Office Administrator; John Doyle, Doyle Architects; Deb & Edward Mackiewicz; Daniel Band, Louth Callahan Renewables; James McManus, JMM Soil Consulting LLC; Eric Spazzarini; Gene Nazzaro; Rebecca Guerrero & Dan Roe, Clark Construction.

I: Call to order

Ms. Sesto called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

II: Discussions:

1. **#2021-002-SR 588 Barrack Hill Road**, alterations and additions to a single family residence, driveway expansion and associated site work within the upland review area of wetlands. *Owner/Applicant: Deb & Edward Mackiewicz*

Mr. John Doyle of Doyle Coffin Architecture gave an overview of the application. He informed the members that during the storm last fall, there was significant damage to the portion of the house. The homeowners decided to also expand the house in the back over the existing deck. There are no plans to replace the deck. An erosion and sedimentation control plan was submitted by Kate Throckmorton, Environmental Land Solutions to address the excavation along the perimeter in the back and construction vehicle access.

Mr. Doyle informed the members that the driveway work as proposed in the application is no longer part of the application.

Mr. Tatge motioned to approve the Summary Ruling application as presented with the applicable regular special conditions. Mr. Salomone seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0. Publication date is February 18, 2021 and effective date is February 19, 2021.



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2. **#IW-21-5, 900 Ridgebury Road**, installation of ground-mounted solar panels on approximately 0.77 acres within the upland review area. *Owner: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. Applicant: Daniel Band*

Mr. Daniel Band of Louth Callahan Renewables gave an overview of the application. The proposed ground-mounted solar panels would cover approximately 0.77 acres. Mr. James McManus of JMM Soil consulting conducted the wetlands study and stated no wetlands or vernal pools were located within the 150 feet of the proposed project.

The Planning & Zoning Commission has referred the application with South West Conservation District for review. Mr. Band added they submitted a stormwater management plan as per the request of SWCD. The stormwater plan includes level spreaders, sized 2 X 2 feet, in front of each row of panels. Erosion mats are proposed over the outer slopes.

Mr. Bishop asked, and it was confirmed that the electric lines connecting to the building are underground and this work is 150 from wetlands and watercourses.

Mr. Pilch identified himself as a professional engineer and asked about the level spreader, stating that level spreaders are usually on level ground. The proposed level spreader extends down the slope, with Mr. Pilch expressing concerns for the functionality of the proposed level spreaders.

Mr. Eric Spazzarini replied the level spreaders will be handle the 10 and 50 year storm events. He added that the level spreader will improve the quality of the water flow in this area of the property.

Ms. Sesto identified herself as a professional wetland scientist and asked if the applicant is aware of any catch basins in the roadway below the proposed solar array. She said a clear understanding of any the storm water systems down gradient is needed as this could transport polluted runoff to a wetland or watercourse.

Discussion ensued. Members questioned the efficacy of level spreaders that are not level; noted the level spreader may not sufficiently address downpours; identified the restrictive hardpan layer could impede infiltration; the nature of the vegetation cleared was not forest, rather it is was scrub, and there are no percolation or deep test holes to support the extent of infiltration proposed.



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Following the discussion Ms. Sesto listed information needed to clarify and substantiate the application. The information included:

- Longitudinal sections of the surface infiltration system
- Deep test holes to establish the depth of hard pan
- Percolation tests
- Identify the stormwater management system within the abutting road network
- A site plan showing an area large enough to include the wetlands boundary

The discussion continued to February 25, 2021. The site walk was rescheduled for February 21, 2021.

3. #IW-21-6, 293 Florida Hill Road, pond dredging and associated site work. Owner: Ian Duncan. Applicant: Gene Nazzaro

Mr. Gene Nazzaro presented the application for pond dredging. The size of the pond would remain the same with no change to the shoreline; the proposal is to only remove sediment. A two-inch submersible pump will be used to have the flows bypass the pond and a second pump will be in the pond to pump out groundwater. The pumps will discharge to a filtration bag.

The 50-75 yards of sediment removed from the pond will be spread on the east side of the pond and will have no impact on the leaching fields. Ms. Kate Throckmorton, Environmental Land Solutions prepared the plan. Discrepancies between the amount of fill identified by Ms. Throckmorton and Mr. Nazzaro were identified. Mr. Nazzaro replied there is only enough room for up to 75 yards of spoils. Dredging would stop once this volume is reached.

Ms. Sesto expressed concerns about the depth of the fill left on-site and the potential to impact the trees in close proximity. She also asked if the 100 year floodplain boundary affects the site.

Ms. Miller suggested showing the tree canopy and protections during the construction.

Ms. Sesto outlined outstanding information to be submitted to board before the next meeting:



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- 100 year flood zone associated with the property.
- Tree protection during the construction
- Identify the distance between the proposed to fill and trees.
- Amount of yardage of the soil being removed from the pond.

The discussion continued on February 25, 2021. Site walk rescheduled to February 21, 2021.

3. **#IW-21-7, 148 Ledges Road**, repair of deck within the upland review area of wetlands. *Owner: Gerald Lohan. Applicant: Rebecca Guerrero.*

Dan Roe, Clark Construction presented the application. The project includes repair of the deck with no expansion and updating a patio. Three of the deck's footings will be replaced. The erosion measures include a silt fence. Mr. Roe said the deck has a gutter system which will be tied into the existing downspout of the house.

Ms. Miller inquired about the *Rainscape* gutters? She expressed concerns of the downspout's gutter system closer to the wetlands and suggested mitigation plantings to help infiltrate water flow before it enters the wetlands. Planting sedges and rushes along the edge of the lawn and wetlands will be beneficial. Discussion of mitigation plantings ensued.

Ms. Sesto restated the outcome of the discussion as a condition of approval which will include the mitigation planting of a size to equal 1.5 times the sum of the deck, the area of patio not under the deck, and $\frac{1}{2}$ the residence. The area of planting should focus on the area where the downspout discharges and otherwise down gradient of the driveway.

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve the Summary Ruling application with the regular special conditions and the additional special conditions as stated. Ms. Miller seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.

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III: Applications to be received:



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1. **#IW-21-11, 45 South Street**, Summary Ruling Application for re-grading, and address drainage issues in the upland review area of the wetlands. **Owner: Town of Ridgefield. Applicant: Russell Gough (ROAR).**

Mr. Salomone motioned to receive the application listed. Ms. Baker seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.

The site walk is scheduled for February 21, 2021. Discussion on February 25, 2021.

IV: Administrative Approvals:

None

V: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:

10 Kendra Court; #2020-079-WV

Mr. Bishop volunteered to steward the ongoing violation. He will contact the property owner and update the Board with the progress made.

VI: Other Business

1. Wetlands fee structure. % Mr. Pilch

Mr. Pilch gave an overview of his draft proposal of the fee structure. His draft proposes the extra fees to address the additional work and the intensity of work. He gave an example that if the dredging involves more earth disturbance, fees should reflect that. Generating additional fees will be helpful to cover the technology cost.

Members will review the material and continue the discussion at a subsequent meeting.

VII: Approval of Minutes:

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Ms. Baker motioned to approve the Inland Wetlands Board minutes. Mr. Tatge seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0.



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VIII: Adjourn

Ms. Sesto discussed functionality of the office work in the absence of an IWB compliance officer. Ms. Sesto will work to streamline the process of creating the resolutions. She will create boilerplates and then the delegated member can write the resolution with the conditions of approval. Mr. Salomone agreed to take the task of writing the resolutions for future applications.

Members discussed handling future violations. When reports of possible violations are submitted, Ms. Paranjape will inform the following board members Mr. Salomone, Mr. Pilch, Ms. Baker and Ms. Sesto for action.

Members also discussed how to handle the day to day inspections of the ongoing wetlands permits and who will perform those inspections. Ms. Sesto will work with Ms. Paranjape to develop a list of active permits.

Hearing no further discussion, Ms. Sesto adjourned the meeting at 8:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary