

**CHAPLIN**  
**INLAND WETLANDS, WATERCOURSES and CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting**  
**September 27, 2023**  
**Chaplin Town Hall**

Present: S. Matthies, Chair; S. Rusch, P. Kegler, D. Field, Virginia Walton

Absent: D. Cates, M. Jenkins

Staff: J. Theroux, Wetlands Agent; S. Welshman Recording Secretary

Others: James Platosh, P.E and Greg Gerrish, P.E of Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C.

S. Matthies called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Alternates seated: D. Field was seated for D. Cates and V. Walton was seated for M. Jenkins

Review and approval of the minutes from Wednesday, July 26, 2023 regularly scheduled meeting:

***Motion by P. Kegler to approve regular meeting minutes for the 7/26/2023 meeting, second by D. Field. Discussion: All in favor of approving the Minutes of the 7/26/2023 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried.***

Audience of Citizens: None

Additions to the Agenda: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- **Town of Chaplin: England Road Bridge Reconstruction Project**

James Platosh, P.E. and Greg Gerrish, P.E of the engineering firm Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C. attended the meeting to present site plans and documentation in support of the Town of Chaplin's application for a Wetland's Permit for the Reconstruction of the England Road Bridge Project. J Platosh passed out an outline handout of points to follow during their presentation. An overview of the \$4 million project included source of funding (80% Federal Funding, 20% State Funding, no cost to the Town); details of the existing bridge (current dimensions and design, rated as Scour Critical and eligible for replacement under Federal Local Bridge Program); details of the new bridge (galvanized steel single span truss construction, supported by micro pilings driven into rock, structure location and roadway profile to remain essentially the same).

Overview of construction schedule, detours, and utility relocation were also presented by J Platosh with an emphasis on there being no instream work or impacts to the Natchaug River watercourse and no impacts to delineated wetlands. Greg Gerrish, P.E. was introduced to present details of permits and approvals already received as well as the design status which is ready for bidding and construction. J Theroux asked how the existing bridge will be demolished and G. Gerrish explained that a debris shield will be placed across the river under the bridge and that the abutments will be cut down but not entirely removed forming a shelf for wildlife crossings. During construction, a debris boom will be anchored above the Ordinary High Water (OHW) mark which consists of a floating tube to catch any floating debris. He stressed that it is clearly stated in the contract that the contractor is to perform no work beneath the OHW mark. Deb

Field asked about the impact to trees in the area and it was explained that specific trees will be marked for removal via a specific process. J Theroux requested a couple of hard copy sets of the full-size plans for his files. It was agreed that the full-size plans will be submitted to J. Theroux after the project goes out to bid for contractors.

***Motion by P. Kegler to accept the application as presented, seconded by V. Walton.***

***Discussion: all in favor of accepting the application as presented. Motion carried.***

Correspondence: None

Administrative Report: J. Theroux reported that he is monitoring the construction of the fire pond behind the CVFD and that erosion and sedimentation control measures are working properly. Also monitoring the progress of construction for the new gas station on Route 6 and reports that all is going well and progressing.

Conservation Commission Business: D. Field reported that the culvert on the other side of Darling Pond got washed out after the heavy rainstorms. She believes this is the third time it has been washed out. S. Matthies suggested the installation of a small wooden footbridge and J Theroux suggested the installation of a correctly sized pipe.

Commission Discussion: None

Adjournment: ***Motion by D. Field to adjourn, seconded by P. Kegler. All in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.***

Respectfully submitted by,  
Susan Welshman  
Recording Clerk