

CHAPLIN
INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
Public Hearing and Regular Monthly Meeting
Meeting Minutes - AMENDED
Chaplin Town Hall, 7:00 P.M.
January 28th 2015

Present: Chairman, Scott Matthies; Sharyn Rusch; Peter Kegler; Paul Deveny; Joe Theroux; Michael Jenkins; Suzanne Gluck, Recording Secretary.

Members Absent: Harry Naumec

Alternates Seated: Peter Stick for Harry Naumec

Also in attendance: Dennis Garceau, WMC Consulting Engineers.

Public Attendance: None

Public hearing: Town of Chaplin North Bear Hill Road bridge reconstruction project and regulation revisions.

Scott Matthies opened the Public Hearing for the Town of Chaplin North Bear Hill Road Bridge Reconstruction Project at 7:01pm. Mr. Matthies stated that the notice of the Public Hearing was published in the Chronicle on January 16, 2015 and January 23, 2015. Mr. Matthies read the notice "Notice of Public Hearing, Town of Chaplin. On Wednesday, January 28th, 2015 at 7:00pm in the Chaplin Town Office Building, 495 Phoenixville Road., the Chaplin Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission will hold a public hearing to hear the application of the Town of Chaplin for the reconstruction project for the North Bear Hill Road bridge and for legislative regulation revisions. At this hearing comments from the public will be heard and written comments will be accepted. A copy of the project application is available for review in the Town Clerks Office."

Mr. Dennis Garceau from WMC began his presentation and stated it is 80% grant funded and 20% town funds for this project. This project is for the North Bear Hill Road bridge project #4601 over the Natchaug River and State Project No. 24-89. Soil testing was by a certified soil scientist in July 2012. The firm performed a site inspection to identify/flag the wetland boundaries. Permitting has been initiated at the local level. Category required by Army Corps as Category 1 and DOT Flood management certification through DOT. Federal wetlands present with the federal impacts area being less than 5000 sq feet.

The structure was built in 1969 and underwent repairs in 1990. The structure length is 75 feet with concrete abutments and a span length of 36 feet. The bridge is hydraulically inadequate due to storm frequency. It has the potential for undermining and concludes the bridge is in poor condition. The bridge is currently reduced to one lane and posted for 10 tons. Several alternatives were looked into, one being installation of a single span

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precast concrete box beams superstructure. The existing pier will be removed and the proposed bridge will be a 70' single span bridge. The proposed roadway and bridge curb to curb will be increased to 26 feet. The roadway profile will be raised about 2 feet. As far as bridge structure, eliminating center pier and pushing abutments back. Mr. Garceau reviewed the current traffic pattern of the bridge and the proposed patterns during construction. This will consist of closing the road and detouring traffic, about a 4 mile detour and a 3 mile detour north of it. The road will be closed and the superstructure removed and contractors will remove the center pier and abutment. Mr. Garceau also reported that in order to capture all the debris to keep it from dropping into the stream, it will be contained with sediment control systems. They will also use riprap to protect the banks. Scott Matthies asked about the west side of the river in the channel bed there are old concrete beams, what is the original purpose of these. Mr. Garceau was not sure but probably to stabilize the channel and these will be removed. The new channel boulder will help to maintain the riprap. There will be some temporary and permanent impact to wetlands. Permanent impact due to river channel grading and re-grading. Temporary impact due to cofferdams and silt fence limits and removal of pier. Also elimination of pier results in creation of approx. 240 sq. ft. of watercourse. Overall looking at 6600 sq. ft. of wetland impacts for construction in April 2016 which will last until late November 2016 early December 2016.

When asked about dewatering, Mr. Garceau stated that some pumping will be done in stages on each side on top of the road bed. The contractor will size the detention basin which will be submitted to WMC during this process and needs to be preapproved before installation. Contractor will come up with his own plan, submitting to WMC and the Inland Wetlands Commission. This is not a part of the permitting process, it is just for approval.

WMC will have a resident engineer onsite during construction, doing inspections, sediment control, etc. WMC will have regular meetings that the Commission can attend and bring any concerns to. Site monitor will make daily visits. Mr. Garceau reported that for the column work and pilings if the material is suitable it will be used on site for fill, if not, it will be trucked out.

Mr. Garceau reported with the pier removed it will enlarge channel capacity and the culvert on road, on the eastside. Mr. Garceau stated it will improve the hydraulic capacity, instead of a 2 yr frequency it will be a 5-10 year frequency of flooding. It won't flood over the top of the road but it will still flood in the flood plain during lower frequency storms.

Also, the railings on the bridge are showing black on the diagram which is a low maintenance type of aluminum. The town can anodize it with color or keep it silver with a clear coat. It can be changed even prior to fabrication. Dark brown has been used too.

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The abutments have a stone look which is concrete form liner, basically a mold to make it look like stone. This is better than real stone.

Mr. Matthies asked about parking for the fisherman on the West Side. According to Mr. Garceau, there will be extra area to park but not a formal parking area.

No further discussion. Mr. Matthies closed the public hearing at 7:26pm.

Mr. Matthies opened the hearing for the legislative regulation revisions at 7:26pm. The commission is updating regulations to meet the legislative changes and to match general statutes. Hearing no comments or questions about the regulation changes, the hearing was closed at 7:27pm.

Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order

Mr. Matthies called the regular meeting to order at 7:27pm.

2. Seating of Alternates

Alternate Peter Stick seated for member Harry Naumec.

3. Additions to Agenda:

None at this time.

4. Approval of Minutes – 12/17/14

Sharyn Rusch made a motion to approve the minutes for December 17, 2014. Peter Kegler seconded the motion. Paul Deveny abstained. All in favor.

5. Audience of Citizens

None at this time.

6. Old Business:

A. North Bear Hill Road bridge reconstruction project

Scott Matthies stated that because the application was received last month the commission can act on the information heard at the hearing this evening. Discussion ensued regarding an actual dewatering plan for sizing. The commissions agent assigned to the project can make a decision for the commission concerning the design and location for the dewatering basin. WMC doesn't design it, they will hire someone to do this which will be presented to WMC and can be submitted to the commission for approval. An engineer will be on site and also Joe Theroux will be visiting the site frequently

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to keep the commission informed of the progress. Mr. Matthies stated that he is comfortable with the plan presented and future input our commission will have and it is an advantage to have center pier removed, which opens it up and makes a more natural channel bed. The wetland impacts showing long term from fill are placed in order to get the road bed up to correct elevation. The short term impacts are mitigated well with construction procedure, they have something to catch debris and have safety equipment onsite if something spills in the river to deal with it quickly for any downstream affects. This construction has not gone out to bid yet, not until 2016.

Peter Kegler made a motion to approve application for the North Bear Hill Road bridge reconstruction project. Paul Deveny seconded the motion. No further discussion. All in favor. No abstentions.

B. Budget Modification

Mr. Matthies reported that at the last meeting the budget was approved, but it didn't include funds for the clerk. Deb Field resigned and Suzanne Gluck will fill in as clerk. The budget was modified to reflect actual costs for 12 meetings a year, approximately \$900.00.

7. New Business:

A. Willimantic Rd. Mr. Dave Garceau, clearing and grading of invasives in 100 foot upland review area.

Mr. Garceau submitted copies of his plan to the commission. He stated that the location is near the Chaplin Crossings building. To the east of the building there is overgrown brush, bittersweet and briars and creeps into parking area and he would like to clear this area out. He will grade it and put filter fabric or Geotextile fabric down and stone it. Some power lines have shrubs growing into them. This could be a good storage area for snow too; it is right off the parking lot, about 50 x 80 foot egg shape area. He may need to take some small trees down to open it up. Joe Theroux confirmed invasive species in that area. According to Mr. Garceau the stream does not flow year round, it stops during summer usually. There is a 12" pipe in driveway to the catch basin; it spills in there and goes into another basin about 15 feet away across street. The channel is about 5 ft. wide in the area he will be working in up to the bank. Mr. Garceau stated that approximately 50 yards of clean fill will be used. Staked hay bales may be used instead of a silt fence and the work to begin in the spring. Discussion continued. Applicant to contact commission's agent when work begins.

Paul Deveny made a motion to allow Joe Theroux to issue an Agent approval for the project, Sharyn Rusch seconded. All in favor.

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B. Regulation Revisions

Scott Matthies stated that regulation changes were sent to the commission for review. The changes made are so language matches general statutes.

Peter Kegler made a motion to approve the changes, Michael Jenkins seconded the motion. All in favor.

8. Correspondence

Scott Matthies reported that the new Habitat Newsletter is located in the rack at town hall.

9. Administrative Report

Joe Theroux reported there are no new wetland violations.

10. Commission Discussion

Discussion regarding subdivisions in Chaplin, no new subdivisions at this time. ~~Joe Theroux reported that a property on South Bedlam Road was recently approved for the 490 Act.*~~

11. Adjournment

Peter Kegler made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:03pm, Scott Matthies seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.