

CHAPLIN INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 @ 7:00PM

REMOTE MEETING

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Teleconferenced In: Chairman S. Matthies, D. Field, P. Kegler, D. Cates (joined at 7:08p.m.), Staff J. Theroux

Absent: P. Deveny, M. Jenkins

S. Matthies called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Alternates Seated: D. Field for P. Deveny

Review and approval of minutes from March 24, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting: Motion by P. Kegler to approve the March 24, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting minutes with a correction under "Commission Discussion" – "D. Fields" should be "D. Field". Second by D. Field. All in favor. MOTION passed.

D. Cates joined at 7:08p.m.

Audience of Citizens: None

Additions to agenda: None

Old Business: Michael Guay: 741 Phoenixville Rd. Pond construction.

S. Matthies reported that there is a new drawing showing that the wetlands had been delineated.

Applicant M. Guay reported that wetlands were flagged by Wes Wentworth, Soil Scientist/Engineer, and suggested a spot for dewatering on northwest side of pond. W. Wentworth is working on more information for the commission regarding the proposed construction and spillway area. The commission discussed the new drawing that was submitted showing the dewatering plan. D. Field asked about the spillway and if it is connected to anything or is it just in case the pond gets too full? M. Guay stated it is in case the pond gets too full due to heavy rain, a recommendation by W. Wentworth; it is not connected to any stream. S. Matthies suggested looking at the parcel map with the wetlands overlay, the pond area in the upper end of wetlands shows the spillway that will flow excess water into the wetland area, and then that will continue to drain downhill towards Rte. 198.

S. Matthies recommended a site walk, scheduled on May 4, 2021 at 5:30p.m. An extension to the application was discussed and J. Theroux will contact M. Guay to get the written extension for the May regular meeting. They will also need an engineer report by then. J. Theroux stated that once the permit is issued, it will be good for 5 years.

S. Matthies would like a hybrid meeting for the next month so they can meet in person at the Town hall and also allow remote connection.

Correspondence: None

New Business: Discussion on combining Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission.

S. Matthies explained to the commission that a new ordinance has been drafted to be presented at the Annual town meeting on 5/24 and voted on 6/1. Commission members are now elected, and this will be changed to appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The current elected terms will remain until it ends and then the Board of Selectmen will appoint new members. The current member terms were discussed and when the terms are ending. S. Matthies explained that being appointed is easier to fill seats and it eliminates elected placeholders that don't show for meetings preventing a quorum.

Regarding combining the Wetlands Commission and Conservation Commission, S. Matthies explained that the Conservation Commission has been inactive for a number of years and this is a better way to keep the commission active to apply for grants for the town. Also, conservation issues can be dealt with, specifically the Helen Garrison trust open space that needs oversight. The commission agreed this is a good idea.

Administrative Report: J. Theroux reported that last month a resident constructed a garage in an upland review area with no zoning or wetland permits. This will be on next months agenda as a show cause hearing. A notice of violation was sent and neither he nor Jay Gigliotti, Zoning Officer, has heard anything back.

Commission Discussion: P. Kegler asked about the permit for M. Guay timeframe. S. Matthies stated it is good for 5 years, but once you start you have to complete the work within a year. The commission discussed the application extensions according to the regulations and will clarify for the next meeting.

Adjournment: Motion by P. Kegler to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Second by D. Cates. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Suzanne Krodel Recording Secretary