

TOWN OF GRANBY

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION MINUTES May 8, 2013

PRESENT: Chairman David Tolli, Aurelle Locke, Deb Sheahan, Wayne Cahoon, Craig Perry, Neil Kraner and David Askew.

Chairman Tolli called the meeting to order and confirmed a quorum at 7:02 p.m.

MINUTES

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Locke, seconded by Mrs. Sheahan, the commission approves the minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting as written. (6-0-0)

PERMIT APPLICATION

2a. Culvert replacement, 24 – 30 Wells Road

Catherine Slattery, property owner, explained that the property is farmland upon which they grow organic crops; 1,000 pounds of vegetables per year and 4,000 bales of hay per year. Ms. Slattery took a recent option to buy 24 Wells Road to repurpose it to farmland (will no longer be classified as residential). There are many access roads to the land. To improve access in a better location on the farm it was necessary to widen the existing road where it crossed over a culvert. The existing culvert was replaced with a pipe nearly twice the length of the original. The permit request is for approval of the work already completed.

Mr. Askew, wetlands agent, has walked the site with the owners and deemed that the owners have complied with his recommendations.

The commission did not have additional comments or questions.

This matter is continued to the next meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Locke, seconded by Mr. Kraner, the commission agreed (6-0-0) to add the following items to the evening's agenda:

Request for Review

320 Granville Road, bridge deck replacement

Applications

279 Granville Road, cleaning of three dams

DISCUSSION

3a. Gravel mining, Peck Orchard Road

Chairman Tolli met with the Director of Community Development and the Town Engineer. The revised application for the mining operation came before the March 2013 Planning and Zoning Commission (P & Z). The revisions made placed all activity outside the upland review area. This matter does NOT fall under the jurisdiction of the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission (IWWC). Chairman Tolli placed the item on the agenda to make commission members aware of the activity and the concerns of members of the public.

The public was invited to ask the commission questions.

Sue Murray, Peck Orchard Road East Hartland, realizes that the mining activity is not in the wetland, however, asked what impact the process may have on the wetlands below. The property has been reviewed by a qualified soil scientist and the design is to keep water on the site. Mr. Askew also explained the upland review area definition and that this commission is limited to the constraints of its regulations and state statutes. He further remarked that he has

given recommendations on erosion controls to both the Director of Community Development and the P & Z. The bowl-type design is to keep the water on the site and he had few concerns. Mr. Askew will be monitoring activity throughout the operation. Should any fault involving regulated areas occur, the commission would step in and require remediation.

Frank Plona, representing the Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, indicated that the plans included a dry well basin to capture water flowing down the 250' access road. The proposed dry well is designed to withstand the 100 year flood definition. Mr. Plona takes issue with the definition. In the past seven years more water has fallen than defined in the 100 year flood and believes that the dry well will fail. When the system fails, he claims the water will flow down Peck Orchard Road to a series of three storm drains. Any overflow from any one of the drains will reach Fox Brook. The storm drains have been clogged with debris. Frank is unhappy with the limits of the IWWC to consider only the 200' buffer. He recommends a wider look and insists that there will be a problem.

Chairman Tolli reports that the matter remains in the hands of the P & Z at this time and this commission must abide by its regulations and the best available information.

Linda Marshall, 309 Granville Road, remarks that this is an emotional issue. It has been suggested that neighbors may alert the authorities in the event of errors or non-compliance. She does not want to be responsible for policing the process for the next two years. She asked whose job it was to monitor the operation. The Director of Community Development is responsible for compliance to the plans, the Town Engineer for road building, the Department of Public Works for public infrastructure, and the Wetland Agent for maintaining erosion control compliance, and watchful neighbors during storm events for any problems with water.

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

320 Granville Road, bridge deck replacement for over-the-driveway bridge

The proposed replacement is a one day operation. Only one piece, the deck, is to be replaced. The pilings/abutments, which have been inspected, will stay and the new deck will be lowered into place.

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Locke, seconded by Mr. Cahoon, the commission approves the request and instructs the wetland agent to sign it since there is no anticipated impact on regulated activity.

APPLICATION

279 Granville Road, dam cleanup

Nelson Toussaint, owner, has been on the property for ten years and has built a house and barn and reclaimed 4 fields. The nearby Silver Street project offered fill which he accepted. There are three ponds within a small stream on the property that each with a dam. (Maps were distributed.) Mr. Toussaint had written his request to work on the dams to the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Mr. Askew confirms that Mr. Toussaint received a reply from the DEP essentially stating that it did not deem it necessary to be involved in the dam work. Mr. Askew has been to the site and reviewed the proposed activity. All seems to be in order, however, he would like to see maps and plans showing both the current conditions and the proposed results. The process would likely take two years with the work being done in the drier months of July and August.

Commission members expressed desire to walk the site to better understand the situation.

ON A MOTION by Mrs. Locke, seconded by Mr. Perry, the commission will hold a public hearing on the matter citing significant activity. (6-0-0)

ANY OTHER PROPER BUSINESS

The next monthly meeting is June 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room.

ON A MOTION by Ms. Locke, seconded by Mr. Perry, the commission unanimously agreed to end the meeting at 8:50 p.m. (6-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Yost
Recording Secretary