

**TOWN OF HADDAM
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
TOWN HALL
21 FIELD PARK DRIVE, HADDAM, CT 06438
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

X	Paul Best, Secretary
A	Curt Chadwick
X	Jeremy DeCarli
X	Dan Iwanicki, Vice Chairman
X	Joe Stephens
A	Mark Stephens, Chairman
X	Thomas Worthley
A	David Costa, Alternate
X	Gail Reynolds, Alternate – Seated
X	Bill Warner, AICP Town Planner
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order & Attendance/Seating of Alternates

Mr. M. Stephens, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All regular members as well as alternate member Gail Reynolds were seated.

2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda

There were no additions/corrections to the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There was no one from the public present.

4. Old Business

a. Haddam Neck Fair Grounds Restoration

David Tozier, Vice President, and Randall Spencer, Director, Haddam Neck Fair Association.

Mr. Spencer provided a copy of a report prepared by George Logan, Certified Professional Wetland Scientist, Registered Soil Scientist, and Certified Senior Ecologist, REMA Ecological Services, LLC (copy on file with the minutes in the Town Clerk's Office and the Land Use Dept.). Mr. Warner stated the report is already a part of the file and was emailed to all Commissioners (emailed on Sat., 01.01.2022). Mr. Warner outlined the five recommendations Mr. Logan made in his report – 1) all large woody debris and man-made material to be removed when the ground freezes; 2) all exposed areas to be seeded; 3) seeding to take place in the winter; 4) a nurse crop to be added to the seed mix for prompt stabilization; and 5) affected areas to be revisited in late April or early May 2022 to view natural resprouting which may result in additional recommendations. Mr. M. Stephens stated the report is well detailed and clear given the situation.

Mr. Spencer stated they would like to get the work done when the ground is frozen. Mr. Warner stated was Mr. Logan's suggestion as well noting Item #1 in the report – “remove all large woody debris and other man-materials brought in for the formation of the off-road track from within the

wetland and the upland review area". Mr. Tozier and Mr. Spencer reported that REMA will be assisting with the removal of the material and the seeding. Mr. Spencer noted that the Board of Directors did submit a permit to do the work. Mr. Warner stated the permit is complete.

MOTION: Dan Iwanicki motion to approve the proposed wetlands restoration in accordance with the registered soil scientist's report dated December 31, 2021. Copy of report on file in the Land Use Dept. Conditions: 1) Standard Permit Conditions. 2) Special/Modifications: No. Tom Worthly second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. J. Stephens asked if any future activity will have to be outside the upland review area. Mr. M. Stephens stated if they would like to do anything within 100 feet of the wetlands, they will need to come back with an application. Mr. Tozier stated they will be in the wetlands to conduct the remediation; and when complete, will let Mr. Warner and the Commission know. Mr. Warner stated Mr. Logan will send a follow up letter regarding this matter. Mr. Warner also stated it was interesting to read Mr. Logan's proposal for seeding to take place in the winter. Mr. Spencer stated Mr. Logan likes to put the seed down so the snow will keep it in place.

Mr. Iwanicki requested that Eileen Brooks be notified of what has taken place tonight. Mr. Warner will notify Mrs. Brooks.

Mr. Spencer asked if he could begin work this weekend. Mr. M. Stephens and Mr. Warner stated yes.

b. Forestry Regulations

Mr. M. Stephens reported that he had emailed the draft regulations to all Commissioners (hard copies distributed at the meeting). Mr. Warner reported that he had called (left message) and emailed Nick Zito, Forest Practices Act Forester, DEEP, asking him if the Commission did everything that had been asked, what the next steps would be. Mr. Iwanicki asked if Mr. Zito had pursued the activity of what the town has to do itself other than what the Commission has done. Mr. Warner stated that's what he has asked Mr. Zito. Mr. M. Stephens stated he's aware the effective date will need to be changed as well as the date when the DEEP commissioner approves the document. Mr. DeCarli asked if a hearing will need to be conducted to update the regulations. Mr. Warner stated it's unclear if they need to be adopted as an ordinance, the Commission just adopts them, or the Board of Selectmen have to adopt them. A brief discussion followed.

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to forward the proposed forestry regulations to Nick Zito, Forest Practices Act Forester, DEEP, for his review/approval. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

The forestry regulations are to be a standing agenda item until completed.

5. New Business

There was nothing new to report at this time.

6. Wetland Enforcement Officer's Report

968 Killingworth Road, Feed Store – Mr. Warner reported that the silt fencing was not installed properly and the feed store owner has installed green snow fencing. Mr. Warner stated the site had been cleaned up; however, other people have dropped off their brush piles. Mr. Warner also stated the property owners own two more building lots beyond the clearing and they have been encouraged to come up with a comprehensive plan as to what they would like to do. Mr. Warner stated there is a tiny patch of wetland (no bigger than 2,000 square feet) which Richard Snarski,

soil scientist for the owners, has concluded is not significant and the owners would like to fill it. Mr. Warner stated the pond is very nice and the owners have been told they need to provide a plan for restoration and protection of the pond and how they will develop outside of it. Mr. Warner stated if they cannot remove the wetland, it will cause a problem for their development plans. Mr. Best asked if they have plans for the pond itself. Mr. Warner stated no; however, they do have someone who is interested in opening a brewery (small tap room) in the vacant space and a few tables/seats by the pond would complement the business.

Mr. Warner encouraged the Commission to go to the feed store noting that it has local meat, eggs, etc., in addition to the feed supplies.

Mr. Worthley stated in the past, when square footage of wetland was being lost in one place there was some compensation in another. Mr. Warner stated the owners are to speak to Mr. Snarski about this.

7. Election of Officers

Mr. M. Stephens stated he would not be accepting the next chairman's nomination, but would like to remain on the Commission. Mr. Iwanicki spoke in regard to an issue that occurred during the Ainsworth administration in which he had to resign from the Commission in order to retain three qualified members. Mr. M. Stephens agreed. Mr. M. Stephens asked that other members consider taking up the position. Mr. M. Stephens noted that February is the month when Election of Officers should be placed on the agenda.

This item is to be placed on the February agenda.

8. Approval/Correction of Minutes

Correction to the 18 October 2021 minutes – page 3, eighth paragraph - delete "Mr. Costa agreed with Mrs. Reynolds by staying within the legal boundaries."

MOTION: Gail Reynolds motioned to approve the 18 October 2021 minutes as amended. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried with Jeremy DeCarli abstaining.

MOTION: Dan Iwanicki motioned to approve the 15 November 2021 minutes as submitted. Paul Best second. Motion carried with Mark Stephens abstaining.

The Commission did not vote on the 20 December 2021 minutes.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Tom Worthley motioned to adjourn. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

In observance of Presidents' Day, the next regular meeting is scheduled for

Tuesday, 22 February 2022.