

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION  
TOWN HALL  
21 FIELD PARK DRIVE, HADDAM, CT  
MONDAY, 13 MARCH 2017  
PUBLIC MEETING  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

**ATTENDANCE**

X	Paul Best, Secretary
X	Curt Chadwick
A	Jeremy DeCarli
A	Dan Iwanicki, Vice Chairman
A	Joe Stephens
X	Mark Stephens, Chairman
A	Tom Worthley
X	Dave Costa, Alternate – Seated
A	Gail Reynolds, Alternate
X	Jim Puska, Wetlands Enforcement Officer
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**1. Call to Order & Attendance/Seating of Alternates**

Mr. M. Stephens, chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and all regular and alternate members were seated.

**2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda**

None.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Old Business**

**Ronald Muller, Applicant and Owner. Property Address: 400 Beaver Meadow Road, Haddam, Located at Assessor's Map 53, Assessor's Lot 005-1. Proposed Activity: Accessory Building 16 Feet by 24 Feet, Converting Existing Swimming Pool to Pond, New Chicken Coop.**

Ron Muller, applicant/owner, was present.

Mr. M. Stephens reported due to the lack of a quorum for the Site Walk, Saturday, 17 March 2017, no minutes were taken. Mr. M. Stephens stated he and Mr. Chadwick attended the Site Walk and Mr. Best had driven by the property.

Mr. M. Stephens reported Mr. Muller had the area staked out and it was not wet (snow still on ground). Mr. M. Stephens stated the proposed location for the new shed is where a previously approved shed was located and that Mr. Muller had provided information pertaining to the outbuilding foundation (on file in the Land Use Dept.).

Prior to the vote, Mr. Best asked Mr. Muller when he planned to begin work. Mr. Muller stated he'd like to begin this summer. Mr. Puska stated due to the front yard setback, Mr. Muller will need to go before ZBA.

**MOTION:** Paul Best moved to approve the construction of an accessory building 16 feet by 24 feet, converting existing swimming pool to pond, chicken coop, and related work in a wetland area. See map on file in the Land Use Office. **Conditions:** Standard Permit Conditions. 2. Special Conditions/Modifications – No. Curt Chadwick second. Motion carried unanimously.

## 5. New Business

**Town of Haddam, Applicant and Owner. Property Address: Bartman Road, Higganum, Beginning at Intersection of Route 81, Heading Approximately 1, 250 Feet East on Bartman Road. Assessor's Map 54. Proposed Activity: Reconstruction of Bartman Road including Replacement of Existing 36-inch Culvert and End Walls, Reconfiguration of Existing Storm Drainage Network West of the Culvert, Installation of a New Storm Drainage Network to the East of the Culvert with the Installation of a Hydrodynamic Separator, and Construction of a Vegetated Outlet Swale to the Pond South of Bartman Road.**

Jeff Jacobson, town engineer, and Chris Taylor, project engineer, both of Nathan L. Jacobson and Associates, and Landon Haase, Bartman Road property owner, were present.

Using the plan, Mr. Taylor reported the proposal is to reconstruct a portion of Bartman Road as it goes down toward the culvert by installing a new drainage system with catch basins (CBs) two foot deep sumps running down towards the wetlands system at the culvert. Mr. Taylor stated the drainage collected in the catch basins further up the road will come down through the hydrodynamic separator (swirl system that separates out the suspended soils and has a bit of capacity to trap the oils as well as floatables) and will discharge to a vegetated swale located in the town's right-of-way (will allow residents as well as Public Works to see if sediment is accumulating to clean it out). The swale will overtop into Mr. Haase's pond (a very large wetland system) allowing drainage from the road to disperse out into the pond and it will attenuate flows very well.

Mr. Taylor also reported the existing culvert that goes across the road will be reconstructed primarily as a safety issue as there are stone end walls close to the road. The proposal calls for expanding the length of the culvert overall, putting in concrete headwalls, and putting in guardrails on either side of the road (safety issue). Mr. Taylor stated all of the utility poles on the street will be relocated – some in the new roadway location, some regraded, and some a part of the system.

Mr. Taylor noted silt fence is proposed along the edges of the wetlands and the roadway further up gradient where there are slopes and rip rap is proposed at the outlet location by the culvert where it discharges to the swale and the spillway coming into the pond. Richard Snarski, wetlands scientist, has delineated the wetlands and provided recommendations for plantings within the swale (plantings reviewed – Shadblow, Highbush blueberry, and Wool Sedge).

Mr. Taylor stated on the west side of the road, some of the drainage that was installed by Pulte will be removed (a number of CBs installed around the culvert). Mr. Taylor noted CBs were not installed at the low point of the road. Mr. Taylor reported the proposal calls for two extra-large double grate CBs four foot deep sumps with hoods on the outlet pipes and discharged just up gradient of a culvert (will not go the swale). The culvert is sunken below the road as the pond sits up at a higher elevation and overtops a natural berm/swale and drops down into the culvert. All other CBs will go into the pond.

Mr. M. Stephens asked if the swale will act like a level spreader. Mr. Taylor stated the swale is flat, approximately six inch depression, where water will build up and pass through before going into the pond.

Mr. Jacobson reported Mr. Haase was concerned about what would happen if the town doesn't maintain the new hydrodynamic separator. Mr. Jacobson stated Mr. Taylor came up with a good solution by shifting it further up the hill and having the long vegetated swale (a visual) so if it's not maintained and sediment starts building up it's an indicator that something needs to be done.

Mr. Best asked the reason for the improvements. Mr. Taylor stated the road was never a fully planned road and safety issues - utility poles too close to road; to make the road a consistent width (average width

is approximately 20 feet wide going down to 15.5 feet at one of the utility poles); and pavement is in bad condition (not a proper base). Mr. Best asked if the movement of the utility poles will be at the cost of the town or the utility company. Mr. Taylor stated it's unclear at this time. Mr. Jacobson stated in the past if the project was in the town owned right-of-way, the utility company moved the poles at their own cost; if it was a state project, the state shared the cost; however, recently, the utility companies are looking for the town's to pick up the cost. At this time there has been no indication and all the poles belong to Frontier.

Mr. Taylor stated one side of Bartman Road was recently redone when the Pulte development went in. Mr. Jacobson stated he only became involved at the tail end of the Pulte improvements when he found out some of the improvements were on Dr. McCarthy's property and had to be moved away creating a series of CBs and pipes. The current proposal will clean some of this up.

Mr. Haase stated ultimately, he's not happy about the water being discharged into his pond citing two other ponds in town where sand was discharged into them. Mr. Haase asked what his recourse would be if the proposal doesn't work (not maintained). Mr. Haase asked if the Pulte section is ever redone, will that water also go into his pond. Mr. Haase noted the water in this area runs around the catch basins and makes a huge mess. Mr. M. Stephens stated it goes into McCarthy's pond. Mr. M. Stephens stated the town does have a vacuum truck to clean CBs and the proposal seems to be making the swale more of a visual to alert people.

Mr. Jacobson stated the pipe installed by Pulte comes down on the opposite side of Bartman Road and a new CB will be installed and this will not flow into Mr. Haase's pond. Mr. Haase stated he understands that's not the case for this proposal; however, if in the future all the CBs are connected, will that water be dumped into his pond. Mr. Haase stated it's his understanding by the runoff being put into his pond it will slow down the flow downstream from there. Mr. M. Stephens stated it's a nice body of water. Mr. Haase noted the existing culvert is working.

Mr. Taylor addressed Mr. Haase's question about the potential of work being done on the opposite side of Bartman Road. Mr. Taylor stated from an engineering standpoint, the reason for looking at taking the east side of the culvert and putting it into Mr. Haase's pond is because the east side (the side being improved) didn't have a drainage system and not all of the road water came down to the culvert; therefore, new stormwater runoff was being introduced to the culvert and they were trying not to overwhelm the culvert. However, on the west side (the one Pulte did), they already have CBs and pipes going directly down to the culvert and it goes towards McCarthy's property. So if it were to be redone, you wouldn't be introducing new water, it would be the same drainage path and it would already be accounted for – not introducing more flow - it would be a matter of resetting the CBs and make them work better. Mr. Taylor stated he would want to maintain the existing drainage path. Mr. Haase stated he understands the water has to go somewhere. Mr. M. Stephens stated the flow goes toward McCarthy's and it sounds like there's better filtration with the proposal. Mr. Stephens asked how Mr. Taylor reached the conclusion that they would not be adding flow. Mr. Taylor stated he was addressing Mr. Haase's "what if" question for the other side of the road.

Mr. Taylor stated for this project not all of the section to be improved currently drains down to the culvert and with the drainage system being added there will be new area added, but in a more direct route. Mr. Jacobson reported some of the water went off the side of the road. Mr. M. Stephens stated it's a hump back road with water going both ways. Mr. Taylor stated some of the water goes out through the woods and ultimately reached the wetland pond system, but not all of it. Mr. Taylor also stated with the new system they would like to try to utilize the pond to detain some of the flow instead of increasing the flow rates going to the culvert by directly by putting them into the culvert.

Mr. Muller asked north side is upland v. the road v. the south side. Pointing to the area in question and Mr. Haase's property, Mr. Taylor stated the water runs from north to south across the road and both sides of the road go up hill becoming uplands rather quickly. Mr. Taylor showed photos of the area.

Mr. M. Stephens asked Mr. Haase if his concerns have been addressed. Mr. Haase stated yes, and commended Mr. Taylor and Mr. Jacobson; but noted the project presently is on paper and if it doesn't

work when completed, what happens. Mr. Puska recommended a condition be added to address Mr. Haase's concerns. Mr. Haase stated he's not thrilled about the project as he'll lose two feet of front yard, have a separator and swale as well as more water in his yard (noted its town right-of-way property). Mr. Jacobson stated generally it's recommended the separators be inspected quarterly for the first year to get a sense of what's happening seasonally and semi-annually thereafter.

Mr. Haase asked how the salt will affect the vegetation to be planted in the swale. Mr. M. Stephens stated Mr. Snarski is a highly respected soil scientist and has his own nursery of wetlands plant. Mr. Jacobson recommended an annual assessment of the plantings by the soil scientist.

Mr. Haase expressed concern over the lack of Bartman Road residents at the meeting noting the number of residents who had attended the public hearing. Mr. Taylor stated there was an informational meeting concerning the project. Mr. Jacobson stated they had met with almost all of the residents individually with the exception of one or two. Mr. Taylor reported the primary concern was increased speeds on the road.

**MOTION:** Curt Chadwick moved to approve the reconstruction of Bartman Road including replacement of existing 36-inch culvert and end walls, reconfiguration of the existing storm drainage network west of the culvert, installation of a new storm drainage network to the east of the culvert with the installation of a hydrodynamic separator, and construction of a vegetated outlet swale adjacent to the pond south of Bartman Road. See map on file in the Land Use Office. **Conditions:** 1. Standard Permit Conditions. 2. Special Conditions/Modifications – Yes. a. Inspect and clean when needed separator quarterly for the first year, semi-annually each year thereafter. Town will maintain the swale to keep clear. b. Town will have soil scientist assess the vegetation in the swale annually for the first two years and submit a report to the Wetlands Enforcement Officer (WEO). Paul Best second. Motion carried unanimously.

## **6. Wetlands Enforcement Officer's Report**

Mr. Puska reported things have been quiet.

Mr. Best asked how the Bartman Road project came about. It was recommended Lizz Milardo, First Selectman, be contacted.

## **7. Approval/Correction of the Minutes**

**MOTION:** Paul Best moved to approve the 13 February 2017 minutes as submitted. Curt Chadwick second. Motion carried unanimously.

## **7a. Miscellaneous**

**Marcus-Sawmill Pond, Sima Road, Aquatic Pesticides Application** – Letter from Solitude Lake Management, dated 14 February 2017, received pertaining to a State permit to apply aquatic pesticides at Marcus-Sawmill Pond, Sima Road. Mr. M. Stephens stated this is a yearly process.

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Paul Best moved to adjourn. Dave Costa second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Bunny Hall Batzner*  
Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 10 April 2017.**