

**COVENTRY INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
MINUTES
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER:

By: Mathieu

Time: 7:04 p.m.

Place: Town Hall Annex

ROLL CALL:

| | | PRESENT | ABSENT |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------|
| REGULAR MEMBERS: | Lori Mathieu, Chairperson | X | |
| | Lukas McNaboe | X | |
| | Sam Norman, Treasurer | | X |
| | David Rosa | X | |
| | Thomas Woolf, Vice Chairman | X | |
| ALTERNATE MEMBERS: | Open | | |
| | David Sorich | | X |
| STAFF: | Todd Penney, Wetlands Agent | X | |

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mathieu suggested that item 6A under discussion items be handled next since members of the Conservation Commission were present and no other audience was present. All members agreed. Art Hall, Leroy Lowe, Paul Manzone and Vincent Messino of the Conservation Commission were present to discuss proposed trail improvements at Patriots Park Woods.

Staff and Conservation Members gave some background on the trails – over the last 5-10 years Boy Scouts have done some trail work including installation of log “corduroy” walking surfaces, wooden bridges and natural log benches. The benches have fallen apart and the corduroy surfaces are slippery, uneven and dangerous to walk on.

What the Conservation Commission and the Town would like to do is reroute the trail to have less impact to the wetlands and make it more accessible. The proposal is to make a trail loop with one point of access rather than the current, steep exit onto the road. This would be safer, easier to maneuver and would take the trail largely out of the wetlands. The trail surfaces being considered instead of corduroys are wood chips, crushed stone, pressure treated wood walkways and larger cobble stones.

Staff handed out copies of the Town's Wetlands Regulations and some photos of the existing trail. He explained that the regulations allow for certain As of Right and Nonregulated Uses including outdoor recreation trails (Section 4.2.b). He said what the IWA has to decide is if they are comfortable with the level of activity that the Conservation Commission is proposing, if it fits into this category, or if a permit will be required. Staff doesn't feel that what the Commission is proposing would change the characteristic of the wetlands, but wasn't sure the degree of construction the Conservation Commission was expected to use, that's why he wanted to get the dialogue started between the two groups.

Members of the Conservation Commission said that they want the trail to be educational. They plan to have someone come out and mark the trees with informational placards. The hope is for the trails to be usable by the people from the neighborhood, families with strollers and those who might have mobility issues and wouldn't be able to use it in its current state.

Leroy Lowe said hopefully Public Works will be able to do the work during the dry season. They expect to use some combination of volunteers and Public Works employees to get the work done. Rosa mentioned that he's involved with the UCONN Natural Resources Academy and they will have volunteers near the end of summer looking for projects like this to do. The Conservation Commission will keep that in mind.

Mathieu said at this time she does not feel that a permit will be necessary based on the wording of the regulations and the description of the project. The Wetlands Agent and the Agency should remain involved in the planning and implementation of the project. Mathieu commented that "indigenous character" is interesting wording. She said that it seems like the new plan will add one new bridge crossing but would eliminate hundreds of feet of already disturbed wetlands soil. The Agency seemed in agreement.

Leroy Lowe said that the Conservation Commission would like to have then IWA come out to Patriots Park Woods and walk the parcel with them. He said that Mason Perrone, the Zoning Agent, is going to be coming out on a weekend to do some GPS mapping and that perhaps that would be a good time for the IWA to come out as well. Members of the IWA agreed with that idea.

To wrap it up, Staff said that the Conservation Commission will work on a master plan and a site walk will be scheduled. Once work begins it will be bitten off in chunks as volunteers/workers permit. Mason Perrone from the Land Use office will be working on new mapping of the parcel, including more accurate delineation of the wetlands. Staff has said that he can help Mason some with the wetlands mapping.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Acceptance of New Applications

#17-03W – Applicant: 7-Eleven; Owner: MKPM North Coventry, LLC; Agent: Alan Roscoe (Core States); Location of Activity: 2711 Boston Turnpike (Assessor’s Map 8, Block 4, Lot 6). Description of Project: Upgrades and renovations related to underground storage tank replacement project. Construction shall be limited to previously altered areas.

The 7-Eleven store will be replacing their underground storage tanks, replacing their pumps, possibly adding another pump, and repaving their driveway. Other than a very small corner of the driveway, the project is entirely outside of the Upland Review Area.

Motion: The Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency remands application #17-03W – Applicant: 7-Eleven; Owner: MKPM North Coventry, LLC; Agent: Alan Roscoe (Core States); Location of Activity: 2711 Boston Turnpike (Assessor’s Map 8, Block 4, Lot 6). Description of Project: Upgrades and renovations related to underground storage tank replacement project. Construction shall be limited to previously altered areas.

By: Woolf

Seconded: McNaboe

Motion carried with the following vote:

For: Woolf, Mathieu, Rosa, McNaboe

Against: None

Abstain: None

All in favor.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. January 26, 2017

Motion: The Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency approves the minutes of the January 26, 2017 meeting.

By: Woolf

Seconded: Rosa

Motion carried with the following vote:

For: Woolf, Rosa, McNaboe, Mathieu

Against: None

Abstain: None

2. February 6, 2017

Motion: The Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency approves the minutes of the February 6, 2017 meeting.

By: Woolf

Seconded: Rosa

Motion carried with the following vote:

For: Woolf, Rosa, McNaboe, Mathieu
Against: None
Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn made at 7:56 p.m.

By: Mathieu Seconded: Woolf

Motion carried with the following vote:

For: Woolf, Rosa, McNaboe, Mathieu

Against: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi A. Leech, Substitute IWA Recording Clerk

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Inland Wetland Agency at the next Agency meeting. Please see the next Agency meeting minutes for approval or changes to these minutes.