

**COVENTRY INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

By: Woolf

Time: 7:45 p.m.

Place: Town Hall Annex

**ROLL CALL:**

		PRESENT	ABSENT
REGULAR MEMBERS:	Harvey Barrett	X left 9:30 p.m.	
	Charles Clapp		X
	Lori Mathieu	X	
	Sam Norman	X	
	Thomas Woolf, Vice Chairman	X	
ALTERNATE MEMBERS:	Open		
	David Sorich		X
OTHER:	Todd Penney, Wetlands Agent	X	

**AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:**

None

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

None

**Motion:** To hear New Business, Item A before Old Business, Item A.

By: Woolf

Seconded: Mathieu

Motion carried with the following vote:

For: Woolf, Mathieu, Barrett, Norman

Against: None

Abstain: None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. #07-33W – Request for Modification by Gerry Hardisty of Civil Engineering, LLC for Wetlands Permit for Bidwell Village, 94 Stonehouse Road.**

Staff introduced the application. Members received maps in their packets.

Leonard Jacobs, 146 Main Street Manchester, representative of the owner, presented. Gerry Hardisty is the Professional Engineer, Rick Julich, Soil Scientist, John Alexsopros, Landscape Architect, working for Bidwell Village. Tom Boyle represents the ownership of Bidwell Village.

They are asking for a modification of the existing approved wetlands permit for Bidwell Village. Also asking that if the Agency feels the modification is negligible that they refer it to the Wetlands Agent as a minor modification so they can realize some savings on the project.

Gerry Hardisty gave an overview of Bidwell Village. Originally approved in 2001 and then the set of plans shown was approved in 2012. On the current plans the only change is the storm water system. As designed they do not think this is the best approach. The approved plans required the storm water detention being three 5' diameter pipes. Hardisty alternatively suggest a series of detention ponds in sequence on both the north and south sides. He determined the south side can be done with a single pond because it is on the same contour. On the north side with the slope, the ponds would be in steps. Most of the storm water comes from the top and receives some from the sides. This plan disturbs no wetlands and is decreasing the area of upland area that would be disturbed. The stone wall on the west will be moved further to accommodate an additional pond in the area. The previous plan approval allowed for disturbance of inland wetland 677 sq. feet; this plan disturbs no wetlands. The upland review disturbance review area on the previous plan was .83 acres; this new suggestion disturbs .58 acres. This design is eco-friendly in his opinion.

The original design called for storm water to drain into an impoundment area, then overflow into a catch basin that allowed it to reach the storage pipes. Hardisty does not know why this design was suggested. Staff supposed there may have been a neighbor applying some pressure regarding the design. Storm water quality is better with the revised design.

Tom Boyle indicated the 2012 approval was an extension of the original permit approval.

Water from this area discharges to the east on School Street. Ultimately, it discharges into the Mill Brook. Mathieu believes there is better water quality leaving the site with this plan and feels this can be handled as a minor modification by the Wetlands Agent. There is also an extensive landscaping plan to assist with nutrient uptake.

Staff feels this is a better plan, but wanted the Agency to review rather than decide it was a minor modification without the Agency's input.

Rich Julich, Soil Scientist, spoke next and supports this design. He provided a report that the Members took some time to review. This plan is designed for a 100-year storm event. The residents will notice if there is need for maintenance on the ponds and notify the Association that maintenance/clean-up is needed. The Association must budget for this maintenance in order for maintenance to actually happen. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding how to be sure this maintenance if continued and not have the Association decide to turn over the roads in Bidwell

Village to the Town as town owned roads when the maintenance becomes too unwieldy. Mathieu is in favor of this plan, but does not want to approve it without some assurance that this will be maintained.

Staff summarized that the Inland Wetlands Agency members believe this is a minor modification. Some procedural events did not occur for an Inland Wetland Agency modification approval. If it not deemed to be a minor modification, then the application cannot yet go before the Planning and Zoning Commission. Bidwell Village wishes this plan change and implementation occur this summer.

Acknowledgement from Bidwell Village Association to be requested regarding the importance and adherence to the maintenance plan that Civil Engineering, LLC will provide to the owners via a letter from Inland Wetlands Agent.

**Motion:** The Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency considers the proposed modification to be an improvement as the footprint of disturbance is reduced and the modification improves the water quality discharge to the receiving wetlands. The Agency furthers moves to allow the Wetlands Agent to approve through a minor modification with the conditions the applicant submits a Maintenance and Operation Plan for review and approval by the Wetlands Agency and that said approved Maintenance and Operation Plan be sent to the Association requesting their implementation of said Maintenance and Operation Plan into their by-laws.

By: Barrett

Seconded: Mathieu

Motion carried with the following vote:

For: Woolf, Mathieu, Barrett, Norman

Against: None

Abstain: None

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **1. #16-07W – Application of Town of Coventry Public Schools, Tennis Court Expansion and Drainage Improvements at Coventry High School, 1700 Main St.**

Staff recounted the focus of this application as adding an additional tennis court and French drain and discharge pipes around the courts. The high school tennis team cannot host home matches without four courts. Storm water will be collected from two directions and discharged into the wetlands. The upland review area will be impacted. The existing tennis courts will be resurfaced with epoxy. Erosion control and tracking will be controlled with the installation of a construction pad and driveway. Construction fencing will be installed for pedestrian safety. The project will go out to bid and be completed by August.

Water is being directed away from the base of the courts to protect them from groundwater.

**Motion:** The Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency approves application #16-07W – owner: Town of Coventry Public Schools, for the Tennis Court Expansion and Drainage Improvements at Coventry High School at Ripley Hill Road.

By: Barrett

Seconded: Mathieu

Motion carried with the following vote:  
For: Woolf, Mathieu, Barrett, Norman  
Against: None  
Abstain: None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- #16-09W – Applicant: Town of Coventry, John Elsesser, 1712 Main Street, Coventry; owner: Town of Coventry; agent Todd Penney, Town Engineer and Wetlands Agent. Location of activity: Homestead Drive (Assessor’s Map Q, Block C and G, Lots 52 and 11 respectively). Description of Project: Install drainage to facilitate storm water flow under Homestead Drive while maintaining vernal pool water elevation.**

Homestead Drive is in the Actor’s Colony Association. Lack of maintenance has made this town owned road impassable. The plan is to put in a type-CL catch basin that will be set below the road grade. The road has been reclaimed. Paving on top of that will raise the road surface three inches. Staff feels this is a good plan for the area. John Ianni, Soil Scientist, has flagged the high limit of the vernal pool. This project cannot be done until August because of how wet the area currently is. This project involves wetlands impact that the Wetlands Agent cannot approve. An easement will be required from the property owner where the vernal pool is located.

The Inland Wetlands Agency accepted this application and will be heard at the June meeting.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**1. April 27, 2016 Regular Meeting**

**Motion:** The Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency approves the April 27, 2016 meeting minutes.

By: Mathieu

Seconded: Norman

Motion carried with the following vote:  
For: Woolf, Mathieu, Norman, Barrett  
Against: None  
Abstain: None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. Appointment of Agency Officers**

**Motion:**

Chairperson: Lori Mathieu was nominated by Sam Norman for Chairperson. Lori Mathieu seconded the nomination.

Vice Chairperson: Thomas Woolf was nominated by Sam Norman for Vice Chairperson. Lori Mathieu seconded the nomination.

Treasurer: Sam Norman was nominated by Lori Mathieu for Treasurer. Sam Norman seconded the nomination.

Motion carried with the following vote:

For: Woolf, Mathieu, Norman, Barrett

Against: None

Abstain: None

**2. Sam Norman asked where he could find the Inland Wetlands regulations**

Staff will send either a link to the regulations or a .pdf version to Norman and Barrett.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne B. Filip

Yvonne B. Filip, IWA 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.**