

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

**Town of Windsor Locks
Ella Grasso Conference Room
Meeting of Wednesday, February 7, 2024
7:00 PM**

Commission Members Present: Bob Crochetiere, Mary Jane Perrier, Darry Ruitter, Rich Pease,
Roy Zettlemoyer, Cindy Cooper
Commission Members Absent: Lacinda VanGieson, John Farrelly, Jim Guthrie
Staff Present: Dana Steel, P.E., Town Engineer/Wetland Agent, Carl Landolina, Town
Attorney

I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

II. Roll Call – As noted above.

III. Additions to the Agenda – None

IV. Approval of the Minutes from January 3, 2024

Cindy Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes from January 3, 2024. Roy Zettlemoyer seconded the motion. It passed with a unanimous vote.

V. Public Input - None

VI. Reviews – None

VII. Public Hearings – None

VIII. Staff Discussion

a) Citation Ordinances and Appeal Period -

Rich Pease took the lead on writing a new Wetlands Violation Citations and Procedures Ordinance under the direction and guidance of Town Attorney Carl Landolina based on a proposal that was presented to the commission by Mr. Landolina at the January 3, 2024 meeting. Mr. Landolina provided clarification with respect to how fines could be administered, the duration, the amount per day and possible maximum amounts to be incurred. He also outlined the violation process starting with an initial complaint. The Commission discussed their thoughts on these issues. Mr. Landolina will add clarification language based on suggestions by the Commission by the next meeting.

IX. Old Business

Cindy Cooper made a motion to move Agenda Item IX.d. to IX.a. Roy Zettlemoyer seconded the motion. It passed with a unanimous vote.

a) Assessment of Woodbridge Drive Complaint – Dana Steele

Dana Steele reminded the Commission about the complaint made by Eric Marsh regarding a concern he brought to the Commission last month about an occurrence that happened many years ago at the Woodbridge condominium development off Oakridge Drive. According to the as-builts from this development, there was a clearing limit that was beyond the property line that extended into the town owned Waterworks Brook property. Back at that time (2017) Jennifer Rodriguez, Town Planner, was aware of the issue. Dana was able to retrieve correspondence relating to this issue from that time. It seemed that there were trees that had fallen down as a result of a storm. The developer reached out to the First Selectman at time and asked to have the debris removed. First Selectman Steve Warwuck stated that they couldn't get to it right away and the developer asked if he could remove the debris. He was granted permission to do so. In restoring it, the stumps were removed and it was seeded. At the time, when Jennifer looked into it, it was determined that there wasn't a wetland issue. Presently, with Chairman Bob

Crochetiere's direction, Dana made a visit to the area and further determined that none of these issues are in a wetlands area. Dana concluded that Jennifer was correct in not pursuing this further. Mr. Landolina stated that his office has been involved for the last 6-8 months with this issue. He concurred that the area was seeded, and grass began to grow. The agency in charge of mowing for the Woodbridge Association began to mow this area as it appears to be lawn. At some point DEEP became involved and found that this area encroaches on the Waterworks property and that the town is in violation of a conservation easement they have over the property even though the property is owned by the town. In the last discussion with DEEP it was further stated that there should be no mowing or clearing of this property and that it should go back to its natural state. Dana Steele mentioned that it appeared that some of this is still being mowed. He also reminded the Commission that the purpose of Eric Marsh's complaint was that the Commission did not appear to be consistent with looking at violations with other people, mentioning Mark Whitton specifically. The difference in violations is that this area is not in a wetlands area and Mark Whitton's violation was. In Dana's opinion, the claim that the Commission was not consistent is unfounded given the difference in the complaints/violations. Because this is out of the jurisdiction of the IWWC, no further action is required on this item.

Mary Jane Perrier made a motion to move Agenda Item IX.c. to IX.b. Roy Zettlemoyer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

b) 92 North Main Street/Fernwood Avenue

Dana Steele reported to the Commission that he sent a violation notice to the property owner on January 19, 2024, via certified mail, return receipt requested. After not receiving the receipt, he followed up with the post office. He was informed that two attempts had been made and they were not able to deliver and obtain a signature. Carl Landolina suggested having a Marshall serve the notice to the property owner, Mr. Omanmuawiyah. Bob Crochetiere re-signed a copy of the violation notice for Mr. Landolina to take with him to get to the Marshall to serve the notice. Dana will drop off pictures, that were in the original notice to Mr. Landolina's office.

c) Dumping Complaint on Volunteer Drive

No update on this item. Public Works knows about the complaint. Bob Crochetiere will reach out to Philip Sissick, Director of Public Works for any update on their end.

d) Hillside Avenue – Violation Update

No update. There was some discussion at the last IWWC meeting about possibly having the Boy Scouts do a project to clean up the area because no one knows who the property owners are or if they are deceased. This item will be removed from the agenda.

X. New Business

Bob Crochetiere expressed his concern about the storm water runoff where the new Senior Center and Police Station are being developed. He further expressed his frustration at his attempts to have the plans for this project presented at an IWWC meeting so this commission has some understanding of how erosion, storm water runoff and other matters that might affect any wetlands are being addressed even though the actual building is not in a wetland area.

Dana discussed his assessment of the plans after he had an opportunity to review them. He discussed with the Commission his thoughts on the placement of the basins. He felt one of them felt was too close to a slope and it will be moved. Dana will continue to be involved in monitoring this project with wetland issues in mind.

Mary Jane Perrier announced an annual wetlands training event to happen on March 7, 2024. Mary Jane will forward the notice to the Recording Secretary to distribute to the group.

XI. Communications and Bills – None

XII. Adjournment

Roy Zettlemyer made a motion to adjourn. Cindy Cooper seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Valerie Mercey
IWWC Recording Secretary*