

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
Central Conference Room, 2nd Floor
Wednesday, April 3, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

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

- I. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
- II. Roll Call** – As noted above.
- III. Additions to the Agenda** – None
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from March 6, 2024**

Darry Ruitter made a motion to approve the minutes from March 6, 2024. Rich Pease seconded. The motion passed with 7 in favor and 1 abstention.
- V. Public Input** – None

Eric March – 94 S. Elm St. appeared hoping to get an update on information he heard about the new Senior Center/Police Station project. He mentioned that he heard that there was water being pumped from a retention basin over the embankment. that contaminated soil was on the property and that too many trees were cleared. He mentioned that he emailed Dana Steele to inquire on the validity of this information and if it could be substantiated. He wants to be sure that the IWWC stays on top of it.
- VI. Reviews** – None
- VII. Public Hearings** – None
- VIII. Staff Discussion**
 - a) Citation Ordinances and Appeal Period**

No update as Town Attorney Carl Landolina was not in attendance. The Commission briefly discussed finalizing the fee schedule. The package has not yet been presented to the Board of Selectman. Dana Steele will inquire about what other towns have set up for fee schedules and limits.
 - b) New Senior Center/Police Station – Site Review – Dana Steele**

Dana reported that he went out to the job location to do an inspection for erosion controls. He mentioned that Darry Ruitter brought to his attention that the storm water basin which is designed to be an infiltration basin is holding water even though there had not been recent rain. Dana spoke to the foreman at the site and was told that in anticipation of a storm coming they were de-watering the basin by discharging the water directly over the bank and down the slope. Dana explained to him that it is a violation and that they did not have permission to discharge water in that manner. He made suggestions on how it should be done. Dana noted that there wasn't much damage to the slope and that the site is draining fine in other locations. He further described the other basins and agreed that they were working fine even though they were still under construction. Dana did not feel that any more needed to be done to remediate the affected areas. He also reached out to the Construction Manager and participated in a conference call with him and the Design Engineer to discuss the de-watering issue. They agreed that it would not continue.

They also said that during the construction of the basin at the site of the police station, they over-excavated it in order to put down topsoil to eventually seed it. They put down too much topsoil so now the water must drain through that topsoil and is leaching into the sides of the basin and is not draining correctly. The topsoil is being tested to make sure it is sandy enough. If not, they will mix more sand to it on site. Dana asked to have the Design Engineer oversee the issue and provide a report at the end confirming that the basin is constructed to the specifications.

First Selectman Paul Harrington addressed the issue of the rumor that contaminated soils were being used at the project. He explained that there was an area identified on the site that does have contaminated soil, but that area will not be built on. Regardless, he stated that he wanted the soil removed. He gave the Commission an 89-page report about the contaminated soil. It was identified that the contamination is ash and glass particles – nothing hazardous. He was told it was approximately 50 CY of soil. It turns out it was 250 CY. Paul stated emphatically that no contaminated soil will be used or be present on the project site and that all the contaminated soil will be removed.

One of the other concerns raised was that too many trees were cut. This activity did not occur in the regulated area – so it is not in our jurisdiction.

IX. Old Business

a) Dumping Complaint on Volunteer Drive – Update

Mr. Calsetta, 121 Orchard Hill Dr. informed the Commission that he would go see the property Manager and ask if they will have the company that did the job, go over and clean it up.

X. New Business – None

XI. Communication and Bills – None

XII. Adjournment

Roy Zettlemoyer made a motion to adjourn. Darry Ruiter seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:41PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Valerie Mercey
IWWC Recording Secretary*