

INLAND WETLAND AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
Town of Windsor Locks
Ella Grasso Conference Room
Special Meeting of June 13, 2024
7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Bob Crochetiere, Mary Jane Perrier, Lacinda VanGiesen, Darry Ruiter, Roy Zettlemyer, Rich Pease, Cindy Cooper
Absent: Jay Farrelly, Jim Guthrie
Staff: Dana Steele, Duly Authorized Wetland Agent

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Crochetiere at 7:00 PM.

II. Roll Call – As noted above

III. Public Input – None

IV. Reviews

a) 401 Spring Street

James Tarbell, 54 West Street came before the Commission with an Application for Permit on behalf of the Windsor Locks Park Commission for the consideration of restoration work to Spring Park Pond. Mr. Tarbell stated that his commission set out to find objectives for the park specifically with the focus on conservation. Mr. Tarbell further stated that the goal of this project is to restore the pond's ability to sustainably provide a fishing pond for the local community, to maintain, improve and respect the biodiversity of the pond.

Mr. Tarbell gave an overview of some of the options to reset the pond including dredging just the edges of the pond or alternatively full dredging of the pond. He described the differences to each approach. The application before this commission is for dredging just the edges of the pond.

Dana Steele, Duly Authorized Wetland Agent, addressed the Commission by stating that he has been working with Mr. Tarbell on this application and clarified for the Commission that one of the decisions to be made is whether this qualifies as a wetland regulated activity. He further defined what a regulated activity is and read Section 4.2 of the regulations which further describes permitted uses and non-regulated uses. In part, Section 4.2 states that "The following operations and uses shall be permitted as non-regulated uses in wetlands and watercourses provided, they do not disturb the natural and indigenous character of the wetland or watercourse." Because this application is proposed to enhance the habitat and proposes removing materials not

indigenous to the wetland, this commission will need to determine if a permit is required.

The Commission discussed the options and had the opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Tarbell. Some of the questions raised involved timing, funding and conservation of the wildlife in the pond specifically regarding turtles. Dana clarified that the entire pond will not be dredged. The Commission concluded that this project will not require a permit as it is a conservation activity.

Mary Jane Perrier made a motion to accept this proposal by Mr. Tarbell – that this application has been determined to be a non-regulated activity and is a conservation activity. Cindy Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

V. New Business

a) 330 Reed Avenue

Bob Crochetiere received a complaint regarding a possible wetland violation near 330 Reed Avenue. Dana Steele contacted Phil Sissick, Public Works Director and they went out and investigated it. Dana noted that water was being pumped out of the wetland into the street, leaving a red stain on the sidewalk and the pavement.

The property owner stated that he has a wet basement and a sump pump that pumps water out of the basement and into a standpipe that drains into the wetlands. He installed a submersible pump in the wetlands to move the excess water out and into the street. The homeowner stated he is aware that the wetlands are on town property and further stated he thought he had the right to do this to protect his property. He cited a law that allows property owners to protect their property from flooding. Dana felt it necessary to contact Town Attorney Carl Landolina to inquire about this law. Attorney Landolina stated that the property owner does not have the right to go onto town property. Regarding the staining on the street and sidewalk – the property owner claims the red staining is a biologic organism found naturally in ground water called iron ochre. Although the homeowner was receptive to the complaint and stated that he would cease pumping from the wetlands, Attorney Landolina felt it would be necessary to issue an Enforcement Order as a matter of formality. Dana read the Order out loud for the record.

After discussion by the Commission, a change in verbiage to the Enforcement Order was suggested and Dana agreed to make the changes and send it out via certified mail on 6/14/24.

Mary Jane Perrier made a motion to accept the Enforcement Order for property located at 325 North Street with the changes recommended. Cindy Cooper seconded the motion. It passed with a unanimous vote.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Roy Zettlemyer and seconded by Cindy Cooper. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Valerie Mercey

IWWC Recording Secretary