

CHAPLIN INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

Chaplin Town Hall, 495 Phoenixville Road, Chaplin CT.

Present: Chairman S. Matthies, M. Jenkins, V. Walton, D. Field. D. Cates arrived at 7:02pm

Absent: P. Deveny, P. Kegler

Staff: J. Theroux

S. Matthies called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Alternates seated: D. Field for P. Kegler and V. Walton for P. Deveny

Review and approval of the minutes from Wednesday, November 20, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting:

Motion by V. Walton to approve minutes for the November 20, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting. Second by D. Field. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Audience for Citizens: None

Additions to agenda: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Show Cause Hearing: 80 Chappell Street, Mr. Kirk Stygar: excavation, grading, filling within intermittent watercourse and wetlands, construction of deck/gazebo in wetlands/watercourse.

J. Theroux received a complaint last Sunday about work being done in wetlands at 80 Chappell Street. He went out on Monday and spoke with Mrs. Stygar to get permission to walk the property and noted the pulling of rocks, general grading and that a deck and gazebo was built on top of watercourses. J. Theroux had a phone conversation with Mr. Stygar to let him know about the violation.

J. Theroux explained the application process. S. Matthies stated that the commission needs to determine if the order that was sent to Mr. Stygar under notice of violation should remain in effect, or if it needs to be revised or withdrawn. J. Theroux presented a photo of the property and area of work that was done. The image is from 2016 Google maps which shows the watercourse and activity he has been doing.

Mr. Stygar reviewed the photo and stated he didn't know exactly where the wetlands were located. He said that water was overflowing in two spots and did stop it from getting water in his basement by pulling material up on the bank and placed stones to help hold the water back but he didn't change

direction of the waterflow. J. Theroux confirmed where water overflowed and that Mr. Stygar also added a gazebo to the ledge in the water, approximately a 12' x 12' area and a bridge that goes over to the gazebo. D. Field asked if the stream has outflow and Mr. Stygar stated yes, it goes into a bigger wetlands area.

S. Matthies stated that the activity that was done by Mr. Stygar which involved raising the bank to deal with overflow, placing stone on stream brook and deck is all activity that requires a wetlands permit and he recommends the order stay in affect and to go through the permit process. The wetlands will need to be flagged and a description submitted of what activity was done in the wetlands or watercourses and within the 100' regulated area. J. Theroux mentioned the addition that was done previously was in the upland review area, basically 100' from the edge of a stream or wetland signed off by the wetlands agent and it was not needed to come to commission.

S. Matthies suggested when soil scientist comes out to flag, they should get a description of impacts that occurred to watercourse and wetlands from the activity and a recommendation on how it affects functions and values of those wetlands and watercourses.

J. Theroux also suggested any future work, pulling stumps, cutting trees in the area should be included in the application.

Motion by D. Cates to have order kept in effect. Motion seconded by V. Walton. All in favor. Motion Passed.

J. Theroux suggested Mr. Stygar submit an application by the January meeting. The area is stable so it if is submitted for the February meeting that should be ok too. J. Theroux will send a letter to Mr. Stygar summing up the meeting and what he needs to do. He will also provide Mr. Stygar with a list of soil scientists.

Correspondence: None

Administrative Report: J. Theroux discussed a beaver issue on Chappell Road. The 3rd and 4th houses on the right are in a low-lying area from 157 Willimantic Road where the beavers are damming up the outlet to a pond and stream near Ames Brook. The owner is having difficulty clearing debris from the spillway. The owner had worked with trappers, but they don't want to trap because fur markets are down, and it costs too much. The commission discussed beaver deceivers and how they work.

J. Theroux will meet with the owner to discuss the potential of the neighbor's septic systems getting flooded.

Commission Discussion: M. Jenkins inquired about the potential of the new gas station plans coming back to the commission if the plans change again. J. Theroux stated that he felt the detention basins were designed properly. The commission discussed basins overflowing and if it would affect wetlands or not, and they also discussed the 100-year storm design.

Adjournment:

Motion by D. Cates to adjourn the meeting at 7:33pm.

Second by M. Jenkins. All in favor.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Suzanne Gluck

Recording Secretary