

**Town of Thompson Inland
Wetlands Commission**

815 Riverside Drive North
Grosvenordale, CT 06255
860-923-1852 (Office)

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, January 12, 2021 7:00PM
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

A) Call to Order & Roll Call – The call to order was by Chair George O’Neil at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Present: Chair George O’Neil, Marla Butts (Wetlands Agent), Diane Chapin (Treasurer), Francesca Morano, H. Charles Obert (Vice Chair), Amy St Onge (First Selectman), Jason Roach

B) Appointment of Alternates - None

C) Action on Minutes of Previous Meeting

a) Minutes of December 8, 2020 – Per G. O’Neil, with no objection, the minutes stand as read.

D) Citizens Comments on Agenda Items - None

E) Applications

a) Old Applications

1. **WAA20009** Hallet T. Merrick, 0 Plum Road, Assessor’s map 85, block 52, lot 12, construction of single-family home, septic system and portion of home proposed in 100-foot upland review area, stamped received 4/13/2020, issued 1/4/2021, legal notice to be published 1/15/2021, end of appeal period 1/30/2021. – M. Butts says it was published on the 15th and to date there are no appeals, no action required by the Commission at this time.
2. **WAA20031**, Madison Avenue Investments, LLC, 0 Madison Ave. (Assessor's map 103, block 31, lot 6K, subdivision lot 11), driveway and grading for new single-family home, stamped received 8/3/2020, additional information requested 12/28/2020. – M. Butts received email yesterday regarding the letter she had sent to Mr. Meehan, asking for an explanation for why the driveway was partially built prior to the approved application. The email she received stated they had previously determined there was no need for cross culverts, the driveway was put in place when driveways for lots 2 and 6 were constructed and there were extra materials left over so he thought he could use that on lot 11. The action was not intentional to create a problem. The rest of the driveway to be constructed should not increase the footprint of what is there already. M. Butts said she would bring this to the Commission tonight, her recommendation is to issue an approval for this with the condition that the extent of work is limited to top dressing the driveway with some additional gravel. D. Chapin says she is fine with this, C. Obert says it seems fine. G. O’Neil asks if this possesses any danger to the wetlands, M. Butts says no danger, it looks like it has already been there a while. The site was fairly stable when she went, no evidence of any sediment moving off site. F. Morano asks if they set a precedent by just accepting or if they should have come in to fill out an application prior to completing this work. M. Butts says he had already filled out the application and paid the fee but when she went out to see the site it looked like the driveway had already been roughed in years prior, she recommends that in the future, the Commission might want to put further

thought into any applications Mr. Meehan comes to ask for but there is not much else to do now. M. Butts will issue the approval within the next week or so.

3. **WAA20033**, Madison Avenue Investments, LLC, 0 Madison Ave. (Assessor's map 103, block 31, lot 6R, subdivision lot 18), septic system for new single family home, stamped received 8/12/2020, additional information requested regarding status of drainage easement and stormwater management basin. – Yesterday M. Butts received an email from Norm Thibeault, P.E., he states the survey determined the footprint of the basin is nearly identical to the basin as designed, the bottom of the basin is larger in area which allows a larger storage volume than originally designed, it is his professional opinion that the basin exceeds the design parameters originally approved. As for the drainage easement, it had already been filed on land records last January. M. Butts sent an email to Amy St Onge asking for review by the Town's legal counsel. Counsel noted there were some gray areas in the easement as was written and suggested to write up a revised easement. That revised easement is now being reviewed by Mr. Meehan and his attorneys, once it is reviewed and filed on land records than M. Butts will issue an approval. No action is required by the Commission at this time.
4. **WAA20040**, Laura Hauser, 31 Center St. (Assessor's map 116, block X, lot 8), reconstruction of a single family home in 100-foot upland review area for Little Pond, stamped received by the Town Clerk 9/18/2020 and 10/5/2020 by the Wetlands Office, on hold pending receipt of revised plans. – Approval was issued by NDDH on December 30, 2020, M. Butts just received a hard copy of that plan yesterday. She will be issuing an approval for this application now that she has received the plan.
5. **WAA20043**, Gary Rawson, 0 Logee Rd. (Assessor's map 141, block 17, lot E), construction of a new single family home in the 100-foot upland review area for Quaddick Reservoir, stamped received 10/29/ 2020, under review pending additional information. – On hold pending NDDH approval and also a response from the Natural Diversity Database since it is an area of concern.

b) New Applications

1. **WAA20047** – Town of Thompson, Riverside Drive from Route 200 to Rawson Ave (Maps 61, 63 & 174), reconstruction of sidewalks in DOT right-of-way, received 12/21/2020, under review. – M. Butts reported Janet Blanchette, representing the Town, was not able to attend this meeting. The Town has received a grant from CTDOT to replace the existing sidewalks and catchbasin covers, all of which are in the upland review area. The location of the sidewalks were viewed. M. Butts identified an area of concern due to drainage problems in and around Thatcher Road. This was been review by J. Blanchette. M. Butts will draft a letter for the 1st Selectman to CTDOT asking them to clean their system and determine if any work needs to be done. Money for addressing any problem with the CTDOT drainage system should not come from the sidewalk grant. Diagram for silt sacs to be used in catch basins as sediment control was viewed and discussed. G. O'Neil asks who is responsible for cleaning these and M. Butts states the contractor who is doing the work would be responsible. She notes they are not replacing the catch basins, only the catch basin tops. All of them are located in the pavement on Route 12. M. Butts says she will draft the CTDOT letter and then issue a Wetlands Agent Approval.

2. **DEC21001**, Jason Roach, 23 Center Street (Assessor's Map 116, block X, Lot 9), replacement of existing stone deck and stairs in the 100-foot upland review area for Little Pond for use permitted as of right – maintenance and enjoyment of residential home, stamped received 1/5/2021. – Mr. Roach is present on the meeting; he wants to replace an existing fieldstone patio and stairs that have fallen into disrepair. He would like to use a skid steer to remove the materials. Photos of the existing area where the work is to be done are viewed and Mr. Roach explains where and why the work will be done. M. Butts says he is not changing any grades and it is a small amount of work. She suggested he come in to ask for the request this way, as a maintenance and enjoyment request since it is such a small amount of work. **A motion made by C. Obert to approve this request, seconded by F. Morano. All in favor, the motion carries.**
 - c) Applications Received After Agenda was Published – IWA21002 – Lisa M. Audette, 0 Robbins Road (map 87, block 53, lot 8A-1), grading and construction of stone ford across an intermittent watercourse / wetland to develop an access for pedestrian and tractor use associated with the construction of a proposed new daycare facility, received by Town Clerk 1/8/21, under review. - This is only being received today, no decision can be made until next meeting. A copy of the storm water management report and site plans were included in the Zoom documents for viewing before next meeting. The only proposed activity in the upland review area is grading to establish a travel way. A stone ford is to go across the intermittent water course / wetlands for use by a tractor and for children to explore across the intermittent watercourse. There will be no grading on the other side as the area is fairly flat. Erosion and sediment control during the cut into the hillside will be the only real concern. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- F) Permit Extensions / Changes - None
- G) Violations & Pending Enforcement Actions
- a) **Cease & Restore Order VIOL20003** Scott Josey, 637 East Thompson Road, Assessor's map 154, block 5, lot 14: filling of wetlands and work within 100-foot upland review area, issued 3/5/2020, hearing and decision 3/10/2020 soils scientist report submitted 5/10/2020 approved, and to be work completed by 9/15/2020. – At the end of October, the soil scientist Mr. Gibson reported upon inspection of the site, it looked like the stone placed across the path filled the crossing, it was not according to plan, and he would talk to Mr. Josey to suggest removal of excess stone in the area to permit discharge in the path. When M. Butts just went out to the site today, it does not look like any changes were made. M. Butts will get in touch with Mr. Josey and find out what happened and why he has not created a stone swale across the path. She also notes it appears as though he is driving a lot of vehicles over the access way.
 - b) **VIOL20013**, Adrienne Martin and Joseph Fagan, 208 Linehouse Rd, Assessor's map 36, block 70, lot 4, clearcutting of trees and earth moving work in 100-foot upland review area, Notice of Violation issued 5/14/2020 to remove the slash, pull back the soil along the eastern property boundary to a grade no steeper than 3:1 (i.e. 3 feet horizontal to 1 foot vertical) by 6/1/2020 and immediately following the completion of this work, seed and mulch all disturbed soils, 7/14/2020 granted extension to 10/1/2020 for completion of work. – M. Butts has not been able to look at this site, when she stopped by, the homeowners were not home. There is no new information at this time, this is not a large violation if it is even still there, the backyard looks stable and all of the wood is removed.
 - c) **VIOL20033**, Jennifer Burlingame & Robert Lemieux, Jr., 480 Quaddick TownFarm Rd., Assessor's map 158, block 20, lot 8K, filling / earthmoving within 100-foot upland review area and possibly within delineated wetlands. Notice of Violation issued 8/6/2020 to cease any further earthmoving work and by August 20, 2020 provide an explanation for the earth moving work and the reason why an approval was not sought prior to the initiation of work within 100

feet of delineated wetlands. – M. Butts had sent an email to Jennifer Burlingame trying to set up a time to meet at the site and has not received a response. She is going to see if she can gain access to viewing the property from the back side of the Desrocher property rather than from Quaddick Town Farm Road. If there was a filling that occurred, it was most likely not very significant. M. Butts will make another attempt to see and if nothing significant has occurred then she may recommend not to proceed with any further.

H) Other Business

- a) FY21-22 Budget Request – M. Butts recommends keeping the budget request the same as it was last year. She suggests there should possibly be a plan in place on a replacement Wetlands Agent in the following fiscal year. With no objection she will offer last year's budget as the same for this year. G. O'Neil asks if they are on track for the budget this year. He would like to find room for drone services in the budget. M. Butts states a small drone around \$300-400 could probably be provided within the budget. F. Morano says last year has been unique with quarantining and pulling back and that might have resulted in less expenditures, it might make sense to pad the budget by 10% or so in case there are any bigger expenditures if things are able to return back to normal in the next fiscal year. C. Obert is worried Finance may try to cut the budget in some way. Amy St Onge says the budget isn't so massive that if the Commission would like to wait until next meeting to give their decision, she is okay with them taking that extra time to review and decide. C. Obert says the budget isn't very big and they are already willing to tighten things up so that is his concern, people each bring their own priorities to the budget process and if they are only thinking about cutting cost than you end up cutting services. M. Butts will provide monthly budget reports in the Zoom documents for next meeting for the Commission to review before giving their decision.

b) Permit Conditions to Ensure Compliance

1. Procedures to Minimize Water Encroachments during Shoreline Construction – M. Butts has a letter for consideration from Daniel Blanchette regarding permits to be given for construction on the shorelines. There are no current permits pending that fall into this category, but it is a suggestion for the future. After discussing briefly with the Commission, M. Butts will come up with sample language to present at next meeting for the Commissioners to look at for this.
2. Bonding Options by IWC – M. Butts says this is in response to two properties that had bonds released by the Planning and Zoning Commission too soon and an issue arose with one of the properties that she will discuss in the Wetlands Agent Report. She suggests modifying or improving the language in the current IWC regulations regarding bonds. She says there could be the question of why two Commissions would be bonding for the same thing, maybe IWC should be bonding for things such as soil and erosion control instead of PZC. M. Butts would like to know if the Commission would like to consider bonding and if so, what kind of bond? Cashbook bond or surety bond? G. O'Neil discusses the difference between the bonds and letters of credit. He asks for the Commissions opinion on any construction projects that have impacts on actual wetlands. F. Morano says asking for a bond might be beyond the realm of some applicants, D. Chapin agrees, some people are not going to be able to afford a flat fee of say \$10,000 and it may stop people from coming to the IWC for approval prior to doing work to avoid the fee. M Butts states typically bonds would be required by the PZC for road construction, gravel operations or a large-scale development such as a Walmart. M. Butts cannot think of any operations aside from gravel operations and road construction to bond for Wetlands. G. O'Neil spoke with a bond expert today, he said suggesting a personal guarantee to say, "I will do whatever work, by this date, and if I do not, I will pay the difference." M. Butts said there could be some issues with that. This will be further discussed next meeting.

3. Bonding by PZC – This was discussed above, with item 2.

- c) Status of Revisions to Plan of Conservation & Development – M. Butts says the Plan of Conservation and Development text was finalized but due to statutory requirements it has to go out for additional review before it can be adopted. It is now out for public review but the 2020-2030 PoCD have not been finalized yet. Amy St Onge says there is going to be a public hearing, it has to be 65 days after notification to NEECOG and The Board of Selectmen, she believes they are looking at the beginning of March for that hearing.

l) Reports

- a) Budget & Expenditures – Per Treasurer D. Chapin, the Commission has expended \$149.54 for advertising and a face shield, \$14,119.22 is available, they have used 45.2% of the budget to date. G. O’Neil asks about the budget and balance for advertising. D. Chapin says there was \$600 set aside for advertising, they have used \$345.45 and encumbered \$130, there is \$124.55 left, they have used 79.2% of the advertising budget.
- b) Wetlands Agent Report – There has been no change in the status of Court Appeal on Application IWA15029, River Junction Estates, LLC, MS4 Annual Report or Pre-1990 File Destruction.

There was an inspection done on the North Grosvenordale Pond Dam on 12/24/2020 and 12/26/2020, before and after heavy rains and melting snow, done by Steven Sroka, P.E. of Tighe & Bond, Inc. He noted no noticeable changes observed when compared to the pre-storm inspection aside from increased water heights in the impoundment and increased seepage at the intersection of the right primary spillway training wall and downstream masonry wall.

Complaint 20-05 – There is no evidence of manure dumping in the wetlands off of Hiawathia Drive, however upon inspection M. Butts notes it appears there has been recent dumping of brush, leaves and woody debris at the top slope reaching the swamp. M. Butts will be requesting the Public Works Director blocks the entrance to this town owned property and post no dumping signs.

Complaint 20-18 – Structure built in Jerry’s Swamp is under investigation.

Permit IWA19004 – A silt fence was reported to be failing after heavy rains on Christmas at 363 Quaddick Town Farm Rd. Modifications were made to the silt fence by Strategic Commercial Realty Inc. and upon inspection by M. Butts, the modifications were done as she had requested.

3 Building permits were reviewed, Permit #20-481-B, Permit #20-492-B, Permit #20-505-B

Purchase Requisition Status – Pending Payment of \$19.54 to zShield for Covid Protection Device; Paid \$58.80, Stonebridge Press, legal notice for Jasmine IWA20011 and Mileno IWA20041; Paid \$58.80, Stonebridge Press, legal notice for Town of Thompson IWA20044 and Fogarty WAA20045; Encumbered \$40.00, Stonebridge Press, legal notice for Merrick III WAA20009.

J) Correspondence - None

K) Signing of Mylars – None

L) Comments by Commissioners – C. Obert asks if anyone recalls the report that came in from Orla, at the bottom of the page is the logo developed by Economic Development Branding Committee. They are asking all Boards and Commissions incorporate that logo into their letterheads. They have a couple of different options available for Boards and Commissions to choose from. Amy St Onge says the idea is recognition of the image of Thompson, she thinks everyone should eventually transition over to this logo, EDC and Branding did a great job with this logo. G. O’Neil asks if it has been copyrighted, C. Obert is not sure if it has been.

M) Adjournment – **A motion made by F. Morano, seconded by C. Obert, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Pomes

<<ZOOM RECORDING>>

Topic: Inlands Wetlands Commission

Date: Jan 12, 2021 06:29 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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Passcode: .4k!!sja