



Town of Thompson  
Inland Wetlands Commission  
815 Riverside Drive  
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(860) 923-1852 (Office)

**INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION**  
**TUESDAY, February 9, 2021 7:00PM**  
**ZOOM Virtual Meeting Minutes**

*\*\*See last page for Zoom recording link\*\**

- A) Call to Order & Roll Call – The call to order was by Chair George O’Neil at 7:05PM via Zoom.  
Present: Chair George O’Neill, Marla Butts; Wetlands Agent, H. Charles Obert; Vice-Chair, Diane Chapin; Treasurer, Francesca Morano; Commissioner, Amy St. Onge; First Selectman, Ashley Pomes; Recording Secretary  
Others Present: Janet Blanchette; J&D Civil Engineers, Daniel Blanchette; J&D Civil Engineers, Macy Rawson, Joe Przybylek, Marc Baer
- B) Appointment of Alternates - None
- C) Action on Minutes of Previous Meeting
- a) Minutes of January 12, 2021 – **A motion to accept the minutes was made by C. Obert seconded by D. Chapin. All in favor.**
- D) Citizens Comments on Agenda Items – None
- E) Applications
- a) Old Applications
1. **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, issued 1/19/2021, legal notice published 1/29/2021, appeal period ends 2/13/2021. – There have been no requests for any appeals.
  2. **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, on hold pending acceptable language for drainage easement. – Per M. Butts, the language for the easement was filed a year ago, she was unclear on whether or not it was acceptable, so she had the Town attorney take a look at it. They came up with some modified language and M. Butts will be forwarding that to the applicant. As soon as the modified language is filed on the land record, she will be issuing a Wetlands Agent Approval.
  3. **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, issued 1/14/2021, legal notice published 1/22/2021, appeal period ends 2/6/2021. – The appeal period has ended with no appeals being issued.
  4. **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, issued 2/5/2021, legal notice

to be published 2/5/2021, appeal period ends 2/20/2021. – This was only published last Friday, no appeals as of now, just waiting on the end of the appeal period.

5. **WAA20046**, Fred & Josee Rogers, 0 New Road (Assessor's map 154, block 3, lot 2C), construction of a septic system in the upland review area for a new single family home, stamped received 11/12/2020, on hold pending receipt of NDDH approval of septic design. – This is on hold pending NDDH approval.
6. **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, issued 1/25/2021, legal notice to be published 2/5/2021, appeal period ends 2/20/2021. – There have been no appeals yet, appeal period is still active.
7. **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, statutorily received 1/12/2021. – Janet Blanchette of J&D Civil Engineers is present to discuss the application. In 2009 a septic system and well were constructed on this property, it was recently sold to Ms. Audette to build a day care and she would like to create an area for outdoor education for the children. In order to access the field/meadow area, it is necessary to cross an intermittent water course. There is a large DOT drainage pipe that outlets into a flat grassy plain. The water just runs off, there is no defined banks of the watercourse. Ms. Blanchette recommends a trail crossing of crushed stone for children to be able to have a firm ground to walk across to get to the field area. M. Butts comments there may need to be additional erosion and sediment controls during the construction depending on what time of the year the construction occurs, that is her only concern on this project. **A motion to approve IWA21002 to make the crossing in the upland review area as specified in the drawing is made by C. Obert, seconded by F. Morano. All in favor.**

b) New Applications - None

c) Applications Received After Agenda was Published –

**WAA21003**, Gary Rawson, 3 & 4 Logee Rd. (Assessors Map 141, block 17, lots 184AAB & 184AAC), remove stumps, level soil & plant grass, stamped received 2/8/2021, under review. – M. Butts says this is actually on two different properties, the other property is the brother of the applicant and he has signed the paperwork giving permission for this work. It is all in the upland review area, M. Butts gave permission for cutting trees prior to the approval but no stump removal or anything further without the approval. This is currently under review and nothing additional is needed by the Commission at this time.

#### F) Permit Extensions / Changes

- a) **IWA20022**, Marc Baer, 1227 Thompson Rd., Assessor's map 116, block 24, lot 10, construct house, well, septic system, driveway and associated grading, request to authorize additional modifications to approved plans as shown on plans entitled "Site Development Plan Prepared for Mark Baer 1227 Thompson Road – Thompson, CT" prepared by J&D Civil Engineers, LLC (sheet 1 of 2) dated June 15, 2020, revised 2021-01-13 Move House, received via email by the Wetlands Office 1/14/2021. – Daniel Blanchette of J&D Civil Engineers is present to discuss this item. He discusses the original

plans, he states as the contractor was doing excavation to build the house, he could not maintain the 2:1 slope and keep it stable, it was starting to cave in. They have raised the house and shifted it to the south to solve this problem. The walkout was raised by 3 feet and shifted to the south 25 feet so that on a temporary basis the contractor could maintain that very steep slope while he is working. The house is a few inches further away from the shore, all of the shoreline work is now completed and came out very well. This also shortened the length of the driveway; the turnaround was moved to the street side instead of the shoreside. The septic tanks were also raised 3 feet to make them work with this new location. C. Obert asks M. Butts if she is satisfied with how this project looks, M. Butts answers she has not been out to the site in at least a month and a half, but this looks like a better approach. **A motion is made by C. Obert to approve the modification as outlined, seconded by F. Morano. All in favor.**

**A motion made by C. Obert seconded by D. Chapin to amend the agenda to include agenda item F) b) Permit Transfer WAA20045. All in favor.**

- b) **Permit Transfer WAA20045** to George & Karen Marrier from James Fogarty. Approval **WAA20045** issued 12/3/2020 for construction of a driveway in the 100-foot upland review area for a new single family home at 0 Brickyard Rd. (Assessors map 38, block 87, lot 6). – Per M. Butts, because there has been no initiation of construction, she has no problem approving the permit. She has spoken with Mr. Marrier and he is not anticipating the start of construction for at least a couple of months. **A motion is made by C. Obert, seconded by D. Chapin, to approve the permit transfer. All in favor.**

G) Violations & Pending Enforcement Actions – There have been no changes on the status on any of these 3 violations, with the snow on the ground now there is not much M. Butts will be able to do right now to review these.

- 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, status of compliance with Cease & Restore Order. – Review on hold pending weather.
- 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, status of compliance with Notice of Violation issued 5/14/2020 to remove the slash, pull back the soil along the eastern property boundary. – Review on hold pending weather.
- c) **VIOL20033**, Jennifer Burlingame & Robert Lemieux, Jr., 480 Quaddick Town Farm Rd., Assessor's map 158, block 20, lot 8K, filling / earthmoving within 100-foot upland review area and possibly within delineated wetlands. Status of Notice of Violation issued 8/6/2020. – Review on hold pending weather.

H) Other Business

- a) FY21-22 Budget Request – M. Butts presents the Commission with the previous budgets for fiscal years 17/18, 18/19, 19/20 and 20/21. She explains all of the line items to the Commission and which funds were expended, which ones were not used and which ones had gone over their budget. There is a discussion between M. Butts and the Commission members about expenses in the previous budgets compared to the expenses that will be expected for this budget. There is a discussion about the increase in advertising costs and how they have gone over their budget for advertising the last few years. Since the Commission has not been meeting in person due to Covid it was discussed moving funds set aside for travel and meeting expenses into the advertising funds. She also talks about when she retires, how the Commission will replace her, if they would like to hire someone

that is more of a novice at a lesser pay scale and she could still be available on an hourly basis to educate as needed. The Commission decides to take 50% of the funds budgeted for travel and change the amount from \$50 down to \$25 and also take 75% of the funds aside for meetings and change that total to \$25 from \$100. That will give an additional \$100 to add into the advertising budget for a total advertising budget of \$700 now. **A motion is made by C. Obert, seconded by F. Morano, to accept the proposed changes to the budget. All in favor**

- b) Discussion on review of Thompson Wetland Inventory – Maps were included in the Zoom documents and shared on the screen. There is discussion between M. Butts and the Commission about the wetlands maps that the National Diversity Database uses versus the maps that were used in the draft of the PoCD. The Thompson Wetlands Inventory map were originally done in 1980, it may be time the inventory is updated. M. Butts asks for the Commissions input on whether they think there should be another study done. C. Obert says yes, they should start to plan for this and reach out to UCONN and Yale and see if they have any grad students who may be interested in doing some of the work or look into what other options there might be for this. M. Butts says she will reach out to some contacts, she will talk to the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, they are working with the Yale School of Forestry. She will also look into low cost or no cost options as well.
- c) Permit Conditions to Ensure Compliance –
  - 1. Procedures to Minimize Water Encroachments during Shoreline Construction - M. Butts has proposed language for Wetlands permits involving retaining walls/revetments proposed along property boundaries (shorelines and otherwise). The proposed language is as follows: Move to approve (application information) on the condition that prior to the initiation of any earthmoving work associated with the construction of any proposed retaining walls/revetments within 5 feet of any property boundary line, a land surveyor licensed to practice in CT shall stake out such property boundary and such staking shall be maintained during construction of the retaining wall/revetment and until such time as the Commission confirms in writing that such construction is complete.
  - 2. Bonding Options by IWC – M. Butts did some research to find out about different bond options and how the amounts are paid, how to determine when bond funds can be used and procedures for using those bonds. A lot of towns have the exact same language as Thompson has without any further clarification. She states if the Commission would want to pursue bonding, these are some of the items that need to be looked at. There is a brief discussion between M. Butts and the Commission about surety bonds and the expense of them, when they would be used and when they wouldn't be used. D. Chapin asks if this is being discussed because Planning and Zoning is not doing their work properly, and if so then she is not interested in doing this because someone else is not properly doing their work. M. Butts says this was brought up because of issues at a few properties. M. Butts and Cindy with P&Z should communicate before releasing the bond to make sure there are no further environmental issues that need to be addressed, but it is mostly their responsibility. D. Chapin would like it if M. Butts can work with them to be sure they get her approval before releasing the bond, that seems like a much better idea than doing all this additional work.

#### l) Reports

- a) Budget & Expenditures – Per D. Chapin, \$209.54 has been expended this month, \$190 was for advertising and \$19.54 was for office supplies. \$12,177.36 is available, the

Commission has used 52.8% of budget.

- b) Wetlands Agent Report – No changes in status of Court Appeal on Application IWA15029, River Junction Estates, LLC, MS4 Annual Report or pre-1990 file destruction.

Two complaints were followed up on and one Permit was addressed: **Complaint 20-05**, manure dumping off Arrowhead and Hiawatha Dr. - M. Butts has sent an email to Rich Benoit with the Public Works Department, asking him to post a “No Dumping” sign and to stop the debris dumping on Town property. **Complaint 20-18**, structure being built in Jerry’s Swamp – A letter of inquiry is being sent to the property owner that the structure appears to be built on asking him to identify if he is responsible for its construction and if yes, to cease any further work and explain the function of the structure to determine the IWC’s next course of action. **Permit IWA19004**, modifications were made to the silt fencing, a recent rainstorm tested these modifications, and the E&S control did not fail, although water overtopped the control. There have been some changes in the landowners of this property, M. Butts is working with both property owners and Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc. to get the area stabilized before the silt fence/hay bale check dam is removed. There has also been discussion between M. Butts and ZEO Cynthia Dunne and they have worked out better coordination between the two offices before the recommended release of bonds on gravel mining operations.

4 building permits were reviewed, Permit #21-018-B, Permit #21-021-B, Permit #21-022-B and Permit #21-034-B.

There were 4 purchase requisitions, pending payment of \$19.54 for a Covid protection device, pending payment of \$44.10 to Stonebridge Press for a legal notice for WAA20009, encumbered \$40.00 for Stonebridge Press, legal notice for WAA20031 and encumbered \$70.00 for Stonebridge Press, legal notice for WAA20043 and WAA20047.

J) Correspondence – None

K) Signing of Mylars – None

L) Comments by Commissioners – C. Obert mentions to make sure that start using the new logo letterhead. M. Butts is waiting for Tyra Penn-Gesek to come put them on her computer and then she will begin using them.

M) Adjournment – **Motion to adjourn is made by F. Morano, seconded by C. Obert. All in favor 8:51pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Pomes

Topic: Inlands Wetlands Commission

Start Time : Feb 9, 2021 06:47 PM

Meeting Recording:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5-Rn0PD-](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5-Rn0PD-JY5QtUHimyq8LQhi_w9r0NmvhPYYjNMG_TLPRasoKcM95wrKQTOCMQq2.d9BdDPcSXuATNF-K)

[JY5QtUHimyq8LQhi\\_w9r0NmvhPYYjNMG\\_TLPRasoKcM95wrKQTOCMQq2.d9BdDPcSXuATNF-K](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5-Rn0PD-JY5QtUHimyq8LQhi_w9r0NmvhPYYjNMG_TLPRasoKcM95wrKQTOCMQq2.d9BdDPcSXuATNF-K)

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