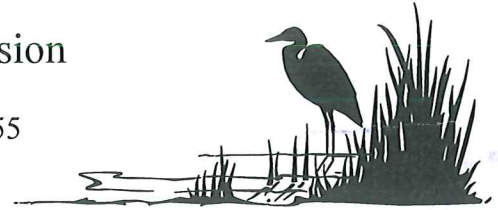




Town of Thompson
Inland Wetlands Commission

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



INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, February 11, 2020
Merrill Seney Community Room – Town Hall

RECEIVED
TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.

2020 FEB 13 P 2:58

Sinda Paradise
TOWN CLERK, Assi

A) Call to Order & Roll Call- Call to order was by Chair George O'Neil at 7:02pm

Present: Commissioner and Chair George O'Neil, Commissioner and Vice-Chair Charles Obert, Commissioner and Treasurer Diane Chapin, Commissioner Fran Morano, Commissioner John Dalton, Wetlands Agent Marla Butts, Recording Secretary Ashley Pomes

Others Present: Gail Arsenault, Nadine L. Williams-Edwards, Charles Tewskbury

Absent: Alternate Commissioner Barbara Roach

B) Appointment of Alternates- none

C) Action on Minutes of Previous Meeting

a) Minutes of January 14, 2019 were accepted as written, no objections

D) Citizens Comments on Agenda Items- none

E) Applications

a) Old Applications

1. **IWA19025** Mark Labonte, 0 Thompson Rd (Rt. 193), Assessor's Map 103, Block 31, Lot 5A, construct new single-family home, stamped received by the Thompson Town Clerk 11/18/2019, statutory receipt date: 12/10/2019.- There was no one present at the meeting to represent Mr. Labonte. As discussed at last month's meeting, M. Butts had sent an email to Mr. Labonte informing him of multiple issues that needed to be addressed. He needed to provide an explanation of the hydraulic function of the proposed cross culvert under the driveway in relationship to the 18in RCP for Thompson Rd. M. Butts also asked for an engineer to evaluate the stability of the gravel drive culvert and cover for it, she would like a cross section of the driveway beginning at Thompson Rd and going up 10 ft. past the stone wall. She also asked for a statement from a qualified soil scientist stating that the wetlands are accurately depicted on the plans as the current plans are 14 yrs old and changes may have occurred. Since sending this email last month, M. Butts has spoken with Mr. Labonte, he is currently out of the state and was dealing with an ill family member. Due to the statutory receipt date being 12/10/2019, this matter would need to be granted an extension, M. Butts asked Mr. Labonte for an extension but did not hear back from him prior to tonight's meeting. Due to this date, a decision will need to be made tonight. There was discussion amongst commission members regarding the issues addressed above. There was discussion amongst commission members regarding the issues. It was noted that the upland review area on the plans was incorrect being 50 feet rather than 100 feet.
Commissioner Obert made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dalton that application IWA19025 be denied due to incomplete and inaccurate information on the plans as presented. There was continued discussion about why the culvert went from two

down to one. Commissioner Chapin has recused herself. The commission voted, all members are in favor, the application was denied.

2. **IWA20001**, Charles Tewksbury, 32 Breaults Landing Rd., Assessor's Map 141, Block 17, Lot 196, demolition of existing cottage, reconstruction of 26' X 30' single family home, installation of new septic system, new well, and stone retaining wall at Quaddick Reservoir water line, stamped received by Town Clerk's Office 1/6/2020, statutory receipt date: 1/14/2020 – Mr. Tewksbury as well as his engineer Bruce Woodis were present at the meeting. Mr. Woodis presented plans with added information showing other retaining walls on the property, the new footprint of the building and added additional elevations in the corner of the property. They also purchased additional lots across the street to place the new well for the cottage as there was not enough space for a new well to fit on the current lot after the septic repair. M. Butts had a concern of lack of parking on the original lot and now there will be additional parking available on the new lots across the street. Aside from the water from the lake there are no additional wetlands located on this property. The proposed wall will be built 24" from the water's edge to allow space to get around the edges of the wall if necessary. There are a few pine trees that will need to be taken down to construct this wall. Commissioner Dalton asked if there would need to be a drainpipe installed in the wall, Mr. Woodis answered stating there will be gaps in the blocks for drainage but no actual drainpipe. Mr. Woodis would like to begin construction on this wall as soon as possible as the water level is low right now due to winter and that will make it easier for the construction. **Commissioner Morano made a motion to approve the application seconded by Commissioner Chapin.** There was no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
3. **IWA20002**, Peter and Marianne Vanghel, Rawson Avenue, construction of a condominium complex, stamped received by the Thompson Town Clerk 1/13/2020, statutory receipt date 1/14/2020 – M. Butts sent a 4-page letter to the Vanghel's requesting more information, Mr. Vanghel came to see M. Butts yesterday and stated he is willing to withdraw this application and questioned if he could have his application fee returned to him or applied to a new project? He states the Rawson Ave project was getting to be too much to deal with, but he has another project at Buckley Hill and Riverside Drive. M. Butts told Mr. Vanghel she would be willing to do a preapplication review for his new project, so he does not run into this same problem next time. The commission discussed returning the fee to Mr. Vanghel but determined that would not be appropriate. **Commissioner Obert made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dalton to have M. Butts notify Mr. Vanghel the withdrawal of the application will be with no refund.**

b) New Applications

1. **WAA20004**, Richard T. Audet, 50 Wrightson Dr. Assessor's map 143, Block 17, Lot 18, construct 20' X 24' shed on piers in the 100-foot upland review area for Quaddick Reservoir, stamped received by Thompson Town Clerk February 5, 2020 – The application contains multiple pictures to M. Butts for her to review exactly where the shed will be placed with markers for the placement of the piers in the photos. M. Butts questions if the land has already been graded in the photos, Commissioner Dalton questions about the pitch of the roof on the proposed shed and runoff from the roof causing erosion. M. Butts will go out to view this property and get more information.

c) Applications Received After Agenda was Published - none

F) Permit Extensions / Changes - None

G) Active Violations & Pending Enforcement Actions

- a) **Notice of Violation VIOL20003**, Scott Josey, 637 East Thompson Road, Assessor's Map 154, Block 5, Lot 14, filling of inland wetlands and grading in 100-foot upland review area without prior approval, issued January 27, 2020, advised to cease further work and attend meeting of February 11, 2020 to discuss – Mr. Josey was in attendance of this meeting, he states there has not been any additional work done to this area and the reason it looks different is just from smoothing out the ruts left in the mud from small machinery that was brought in to remove some trees. M. Butts had photographs of the property from street level as well as aerial photos to show changes that have been made. At the request of M. Butts as well as the commission, Mr. Josey was told to hire a soil scientist in the next two weeks to come out to his property and test the soil to determine what has been done and what needs to be done to restore the wetlands to their original state. He was told he can contact M. Butts for assistance in obtaining a soil scientist if he does not know where to find one. If he does not do this within the next two weeks, then the commission will take the next steps towards a Cease and Desist Order which will be filed in the permanent land records in the town hall and would encumber his deed until the violation is resolved.
- b) **Cease & Restore Order VIOL19018**, Federal Home Loan Corporation, 0 & 533 Brandy Hill Road, Assessor's Map 143, Block 17, Lot 7-7: action on hold pending return of Wetlands Agent – M. Butts received a call from someone who was representing the property owner, they are going to look further into what is going on. This is still on hold until M. Butts can get out to see this property.
- c) **Complaint 19-03**, Richard Desrochers, 484 Quaddick Town Farm Road, Assessor's Map 158, Block 20, Lot J: action on hold pending return of Wetlands Agent – The gate was closed when M. Butts went by to view this property on January 31, 2020, she is going to try to get in touch with Mr. Desrochers to set up an appointment to view this property.

H) Other Business

- a) Discussion of responsibilities under "Ordinance Concerning Measures for Minimization of Flood Damage" adopted April 28, 1975. – The ordinance was referencing the National Flood Insurance Program in Thompson and was never rescinded. It references, in part, a responsibility for the Inland Wetlands Commission. There is a subsequent ordinance adopted in 1988 requiring the building inspector to administer the program in Thompson with the Conservation Commission identified as the appeal agency. Several years ago there was consideration to revise the 1988 ordinance to have the Inlands Wetlands Commission be the appeal agency but that was dropped due to other changes that would have to be done. Chair O'Neil said the town's participation in the NFIP program is what provides low cost flood insurance required by mortgage lenders. M. Butts said that she will include provisions for the NFIP in revisions to the Commission's regulations that she is working on.
- b) FY 20-21 Budget Request – M. Butts did not recommend any changes be made to the budget aside from non-union employee raises. There was also talk of the town possibly contracting with a drone company to be used for various needs of the town, for IWC purposes the drone could be used to view properties that need to be addressed that the Commission and Wetlands Agent would not otherwise have access to. M. Butts has need to investigate costs and check how other towns are handling this.
- c) By-Laws revisions to accommodate authorizing ordinance change in Commission membership – The Bylaws of the Thompson Inland Wetlands Commission was reviewed, there were a few changes that were made to it. They are as follows;

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP – the date the terms of members and the filling of vacancies was amended was on May 6, 2019.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS SECTION 3 – The number of members needed to constitute a quorum is now 3 instead of 4.

ARTICLE XVI AMENDMENTS – The number of a majority vote is now 3 instead of 4 as well as the unanimous vote of the entire voting membership of the Commission is 5 instead of 7.

- d) Review USGS 1/28/2020 request to re-deploy water quality instrumentation on Town property along the bank of the French River - The U.S. Geological Survey has had water-quality instrumentation on the French River in North Grosvenordale since the early 1960's. They are asking permission to re-deploy equipment for 3 years from February 2020 through January 2023 They would like to deploy the instrumentation in a different location then used before. M. Butts reviewed the request and her communications on the matter with the Commission. After a brief discussion the Commission had no objections and gave the okay for this request.
- e) Ask Me Anything, Wednesday March 4th at 6:00pm at the library, RSVP by February 24th – M. Butts will not be attending this event but will answer Inland Wetlands questions that are sent to her. Chair O'Neil will not be able to attend either as he will be out of town. Commission Obert will attend and keep a list of questions for Ms. Butts.

I) Reports

- a) Budget & Expenditures – Per Treasurer Chapin, an amount of \$15,056.32 is available, 41.6% of the budget has been used.
- b) Wetlands Agent Report

UPDATES: Court Appeal on Application IWA15029, River Junction Estates, LLC is still pending; expect working on MS4 contracts for further mapping and water sampling over next 2 weeks; and work has begun on file destruction for 1988.

INSPECTIONS/FOLLOWUP ACTIONS:

IWA19004 Strategic Commercial Realty Inc 363 QTFRd – On January 31, 2020 I viewed the operation from its access drive and Quaddick Town Farm Road. Erosion and sediment controls were working properly and there was no evidence of sediment reaching and wetlands located near Quaddick Town Farm Rd. As requested at January's IWC meeting I have conducted a review of the town's land records to determine the effect land transfers would have on inland wetland and watercourse regulation. Attached to this report is a memo of my findings along with a letter that is being sent to Scott Letendre who has purchased a portion of the property covered by Permit IWA19004. There is no further action by the IWC warranted at this time.

New Violation VIOL20005, Susan Eklund, 1208 Riverside Drive. On January 31, 2020 I visited Ms. Eklund's property following a report that some woody debris from a tree cutting operation on the Eklund property had been placed in wetlands south of the home at 1208 Riverside Drive. In the presence of John Lenky I observed and photographed the slash placed in a red maple swamp that was located on land owned by Herbert Cortis that obviously came from the tree cutting operation on the Eklund property. I was told by Mr. Lenky that the trees cut had been damaged by storms. This was not a clear cut in the upland review area as there were some trees still standing in the upland review area. No grubbing or stump removal had been done. While the placing of this material was done without any wetlands approval as long as no other work is performed the woody debris should decay without and long term or adverse effects to the swamp. I issued Notice of Violation on February 7, 2020 instructing the cessation of further work in the wetlands, watercourses or upland review area and that should Mr. Cortis want the debris on his land removed, I should be contacted and plan on attending the next IWC meeting

to discuss the proposed removal activities. Mr. Corttis was sent a copy of the NOV.

BUILDING PERMITS REVIEWED: 1) Donovan Drive Lot 6 and 2) 464 Quaddick Road.

MISCELLANEOUS On 2/7/2019 an application from submitted by Jacques Lemoine to the Town Clerk on 9/18/2019 was returned via certified mail with a cover letter explaining it failed to have any site plan or details regarding the requested improvement and was not accompanied by the requisite fee.

- J) Correspondence - none
- K) Signing of Mylars - none
- L) Comments by Commissioners – J. Dalton asked if anyone knew exactly how much a soil scientist would cost to hire, referencing the Mr. Josey case from earlier.
- M) Adjournment – **Motion to adjourn at 9:39pm by Commissioner Morano seconded by Commissioner Chapin carried unanimously.**

Respectively Submitted

Ashley Pomes
Recording Secretary