

ORANGE INLAND WETLAND and WATERCOURSE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2022 MEETING

Unapproved Minutes

The Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at Town Hall, lower level, 617 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT, at 7:00 p.m.

Ron Ruotolo
Lesley Giovanelli
James Ewen
William Perfetto, Jr.

Jack Demirjian, Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer
Tamara Trantales, Administrative Assistant

Mary Kelly
TOWN CLERK

2022 JAN 14 AM 10:17

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORDS

Correspondence – Review of the October 13, 2021 Minutes.

A motion was made by James Ewen and seconded by Leslie Giovanelli to accept and approve the Minutes from the October 13, 2021 meeting, as written. The motion carried with the vote recorded as follows: Ewen, aye; Giovanelli, aye; Perfetto, aye; Ruotolo, abstain. The vote was recorded as 3-0-1 to accept and approve the motion.

There were no additional comments.

For Receipt

None

New Business – Election of Officers as required by Section 7.1 of the Wetlands Bylaws.
“The first meeting in January of even numbered year shall be an organization meeting, at which time officers will be elected.”

Wetlands Enforcement Officer Jack Demirjian stated that he spoke with Chairman Rick Mangione today. Chairman Mangione will be moving to Milford, yet he will continue to work with the Commission until he moves. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Ruotolo stated that he would be willing to be Chairman. Commissioner Giovanelli stated that she would like to be Vice-Chairman. Chairman Rick Mangione was selected to be Secretary. The Slate of Officers: Ron Ruotolo, Chairman; Leslie Giovanelli, Vice-Chairman; Rick Mangione, Secretary.

A motion was made by James Ewen and seconded by William Perfetto to accept and approve the proposed Slate of Officers. The motion carried with the vote recorded as follows: Ewen, aye; Perfetto, aye; Giovanelli, aye; Ruotolo, aye. The vote was recorded as 4-0 to accept and approve the motion.

There were no additional comments.

Old Business

None.

Enforcement Officer's Report

Wetlands Enforcement Officer Demirjian stated that the State of Connecticut has made some land use legislative changes. The changes mostly affect Plan & Zoning. However, there is one change which affects Wetlands: the applicant would be required to pay the cost of reasonable fees for necessary consultants. A brief discussion ensued.

WEO Demirjian stated that Commissioners Ruotolo, Ewen and Hudson's terms are ending in the next few months. WEO Demirjian noted that they would need to be re-sworn in if they are interested.

For Discussion – For property known as 321 Boston Post Road. Submitted by DGA, LLC. To construct an outdoor dining patio within the upland review area of the Silver Brook watercourse.

Chairman Ruotolo asked the applicants if they would like to proceed without a full commission. The applicants replied affirmatively.

Andrew Skolnick, Esq., Harlow, Adams & Friedman, representing 321 Boston Post Road, stated that they want to make the existing outdoor dining area permanent. Attorney Skolnick explained that the outdoor dining area will not disturb the wetlands at all. He stated that it would improve the property without impact to the wetlands.

WEO Demirjian asked about the Sedimentation and Erosion (S & E) controls and if there would be silt fencing along Silver Brook. Attorney Skolnick replied affirmatively. Vice-Chairman Giovanelli asked if the S & E controls could be made a condition of approval. WEO Demirjian replied affirmatively.

Joe Codespoti, Landscape Architect, Codespoti & Associates, noted that the State of CT did a lot of work in the area, including rebuilding the bridge. Mr. Codespoti stated that the applicants would install plantings, which will enhance the area. All parking in front of the building would be removed. A walkway consisting of pavers would be added. Mr. Codespoti stated that they are not increasing any impervious surfaces. He expressed his belief that the outdoor dining area would enhance the wetlands and reduce any oil drippings, etc. Vice-Chairman Giovanelli asked if there would be a maintenance plan for the plants. Mr. Codespoti stated that they would include a maintenance plan.

Chairman Ruotolo asked if there were any more comments or questions. There were none.

A motion was made by Lesley Giovanelli and seconded by William Perfetto to accept and approve the proposal for 321 Boston Post Road, subject to the following conditions: S & E controls must be installed and there must be a maintenance plan for the plants. The motion carried with the vote recorded as follows: Giovanelli, aye; Perfetto, aye; Ewen, aye; Ruotolo, aye. The vote was recorded as 4-0 to accept and approve the motion.

There were no additional comments.

A motion was made by James Ewen and seconded by Leslie Giovanelli to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with the vote recorded as follows: Ewen, aye; Giovanelli, aye; Perfetto, aye; Ruotolo, aye. The vote was recorded as 4-0 to accept and approve the motion.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Trantales,
Administrative Assistant