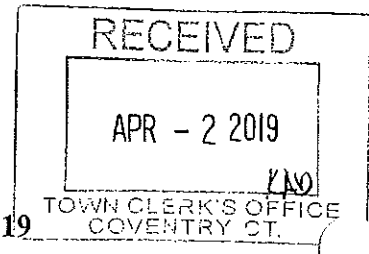


**COVENTRY INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019**



1. CALL TO ORDER:

By: Norman

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Town Hall Annex

2. ROLL CALL:

		PRESENT	ABSENT
REGULAR MEMBERS:	Martin Briggs	X	
	Lori Mathieu, Chairperson		X
	Patricia Laramee		X
	Sam Norman, Treasurer	X	
	Thomas Woolf, Vice Chairman		X
ALTERNATE MEMBERS:	Mike Powers	X	
	Open		X
STAFF:	Todd Penney, Wetlands Agent	X	

3. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

None

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. 19-04W: Matt Cordner, Applicant; Todd Henderson, Owner. Proposed Activity: Phragmites Management and Sand Installation at 311 Woodland Road.

Matt Cordner and Todd Henderson were present. Dr. Kortmann was also present.

Staff reminded the Agency of the history of this application. The Town hired consultant Dr. Kortmann to review the application and the proposed activity. A draft memo from Dr. Kortmann, dated March 25, 2019, was share with the IWA. A plan of the activity, dated March 27, 2019, was submitted by the owner and another draft memo from Kortmann, dated March 26, 2019, was submitted to Staff; these were distributed at the meeting.

Dr. Kortmann indicated that he has been studying Coventry Lake for four decades. He worked with Suffield's IWA early in his career. Kortmann review the application and the proposed options for eliminating the phragmites at this property. He has not walked the property. Dr. Kortmann knows that there are activities that can enhance the lake front while providing reasonable use by the owner. The scope of work described in the application is not the right scope of work. The application lacks adequate detail for this significant activity in a regulated area. Details such as the quality of the sand and the cubic area of sand that may be added is absent. The underlying issue is the intent to alleviate the nuisance of the phragmites. The scope of work is 3,500 sq. feet, which is the average of two lake front house footprints. The research Kortmann did about elimination of the phragmites indicates the best method is to approach this plant like you are attacking poison ivy. There method is to shoot the individual plants with an herbicide. The home owner has done a good job with providing a view corridor from the house to the lake while preserving a canopy. The best water quality system is in undistributed wood lands. Dr. Kortmann recommends that the IWA approach to the elimination of the phragmites is through the use of an herbicide.

The owner does not wish to use an herbicide because of health issues family members have encountered because of it. Henderson is okay with not adding sand to the lake front if the black plastic is used. Google Earth pictures show that about one acre has been taken over by the invasive.

Dr. Kortmann continued that this could be the perfect example of what is allowed by the IWA and then having other lake front owners wanting to use the same approach. Even if $\frac{1}{4}$ of the homes around the lake try to use this approach that would be excavating and filling 4 acres. He has witnessed development around lakes growing and growing. Land disturbance, such as excavating the phragmites, is not a reasonable use of property, in his opinion. While he is generally not an advocate of herbicide use, but it is a tool that is effective and the recommended approach when eliminating or controlling phragmites.

There was a question of what the deed states are the limits of the owner's property. The cove to the east of the jetty appears to have a foot or so of muck accumulated on the lake bed. The area to the west of the jetty appears to have a gravel bed. Staff questioned if this is a case of the jetty preventing flow in the area and causing the organic material to build up as has been seen at Patriots Park. Dr. Kortmann stated there is a major stream bed running from the back of the police station into the lake on this property which is a major contributor to the lake. The jetty will restrict the littoral drift.

Kortmann would like to know what the bottom type is in this area. Are there any obstacles? He has scuba dived in the area where the water goes down 4-5' and then a 4' boulder is present.

The owner agreed to a meeting on the property with him, his agent, Staff, and the consultant as an agent for the Town. A site visit will be arranged and additional collaboration between all parties can be discussed with the additional information provided this evening being reviewed. The owner is aware that maintenance will be required to keep the phragmites from returning and/or expanding again. The previous owner was not present on the property year-round.

Staff stated that a special meeting of the IWA could possibly be arranged so as not to detain the owner from starting work on the project.

Dr. Kortmann explained that phragmites spread locally underground. The other risk is that the seed heads are released and establish in a new location. There is not enough variability in the lake level. This allows the plants to move and colonize elsewhere which can happen by disturbing the root system or through the seed heads. There is risk of movement of the invasive to other parts of the lake. There are already beds between Lisicke Beach and Daly Road and across Route 31. These are not as nasty as hydrilla or milfoil that can really interfere with use of the lake. The Lake experienced an algae bloom last October. Had this happened earlier in the year Coventry would have ended up with a toxic lake, meaning no lake use at all including swimming, boating, and pets going into the water.

The owner is trying to do some things on the property for the right reason. Dr. Kortmann restated that he likes how the landscaping has been handled on the property; he does not have a problem with someone having a beach.

Staff and the IWA wants to be able to have the owner move forward with the right option that suits the owner's needs and the IWA's responsibility to avoid detriments to the lake. The on-site meeting, getting some other opinions, or brainstorming ideas will help move this along. Getting more comfortable in knowing the conditions underneath the mat would be helpful. A soil scientist could determine the depth of the mat and what is underneath it so it is known what will be there if the mat is peeled back. Staff stated that from a wetlands perspective this is about mitigating an invasive and the applicant restoring the lake front in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Dr. Kortmann will review the response from the owner. He feels this is a regulated activity, not an as-of-right. While the IWA feels the same way the previous meeting minutes do not specifically state this. He feels it is reasonable for a lakefront property to have a sandy bottom.

Norman stated that all involved want to make sure that this activity is done in the correct manner. The IWA likes an owner to have reasonable use of property. As Dr. Kortmann stated, IWA must keep in mind that what is done here will serve as a model for other owners.

This matter is tabled until the next meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. #19-09W – Applicants and owners John and Debby Zeppa; Agent James Blair; location of the activity 93 West Shore Drive. Description of the Project: Replacement of existing walks and lakeside patio with permeable pavers, repairs to lake wall cap. 700 sq. feet of wetlands, watercourse and/or regulated area impacted.**

John and Debby Zeppa were present along with their agent James Blair.

Staff met with the applicants and their agent about the project. This is a property on the Lake that has existing concrete and field stone walk ways, lake wall, and brick patio. The activity is to remove all of the material, much of which is crumbling, and replace it with permeable pavers set in crushed stone. Staff is concerned about the patio's proximity to the lake. However, this will be an improvement with the use of permeable pavers. A letter from James Blair, dated March

25, 2019, to the IWA was read into the record by Staff. The patio size will remain the same. There is a 4' wall at the lake side of the patio with a sandy beach before the water.

Norman agrees with Staff that this is of minimal impact even if not considered as-of-right maintenance. This activity is a positive thing in replacing the material with permeable pavers.

Motion: I move that the Inland Wetlands Agency deems application #19-09W to be of minimal impact and remands it to the Wetlands Agent.

By: Powers

Seconded: Briggs

Voting:

For: Powers, Briggs, Norman

Against: None

Abstain: None

B. CT Water Company work at the well head that supplies Coventry Village

Staff reminded the IWA that there is no jurisdiction over CT Water for the infrastructure and distribution of water. However, CT Water does present projects to the IWA as a courtesy.

Adam Wing, Project Engineer, with CT Water was present. He showed a topo survey for an approved well location that has an easement on Desiato Sand and Gravel property. The location of the approved high yielding well head that will be used for water supply to the Coventry Village area. CT Water had to find the high-water mark and the 100-year flood water line. The blue line on the topo map shows the wetlands line delineated by a soil scientist. The well head is outside of the high-water mark, but within the wetlands. They must be outside of the high-water mark for DPH. The 100-year flood mark required by FEMA pushed the location past the yellow line. Therefore, DPH requires that the well head be 1' above the flood elevation. Because the location is within the flood plan CT Water will be submitting an application to the Coventry PZC as they are the flood manager agency. These are alluvial soils as reported by David Lord. The report from Soil Resource Consultants, dated March 27, 2019, was submitted to Staff.

Staff suggested mitigation measures be used where the slope is 2:1, such as soils and erosion control matting. If the matting is extended to all of the slopes this will provide added protection and may help to germinate grass faster.

Wing reported the PZC permit application will be submitted soon. The pump house location may be moved and CT Water is waiting out the comment period from Mansfield. The work for the pump house is expected to take eight to ten months, possibly from October to April. The activity at the well head should be completed in two to three weeks. Staff will visit the site when the silt fence is put into place and make periodic visit during the activity.

The withdrawal and diversion permits have been obtained from DEEP. The well is expected to yield approximately 120-140 gallons per minute.

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

A. January 23, 2019

Motion: Move that the Inland Wetlands Agency approves the minutes of the January 23, 2019 meeting.

By: Briggs

Seconded: Powers

Voting:

For: Briggs, Powers, Norman

Against: None

Abstain: None

B. March 6, 2019

Motion: Move that the Inland Wetlands Agency approves the minutes of the March 6, 2019 meeting.

By: Powers

Seconded: Briggs

Voting:

For: Briggs, Powers, Norman

Against: None

Abstain: None

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Lewis Hill Road/Boston Turnpike On-site Pond/Dam Maintenance

Staff recounted that Mr. Hoskey and his brother have an old farm pond that has a couple of dam breeches. They will submit a plan for the maintenance that will be presented at the April meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A. DEEP Letter Roman Pond Dam Inspection

The letter from DEEP (missing page 2) details the inspection of the dam by Fuss & O'Neil and the report that was given to DEEP. Work will need to be done to that will require dam safety permits. Local permitting is not needed. Staff will provide the entire report to IWA at the next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

By: Powers

Seconded: Briggs

Voting:
For: Powers, Norman, Briggs
Against: None
Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne B. Filip

Yvonne B. Filip, IWA Clerk

PLEASE NOTE: The minutes are not official until approved by the Inland Wetland Agency at the next Agency meeting. Please see the next Agency meeting minutes for approval or changes to these minutes.