

**COVENTRY INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021**

By: Mathieu

Time: 7:01 p.m.

Place: Virtual

**1. ROLL CALL:**

		PRESENT	ABSENT
REGULAR MEMBERS:	Martin Briggs		X
	Suzanne Choate	X	
	Patricia Laramee	X	
	Lori Mathieu, Chairperson	X	
	Thomas Woolf, Vice Chairman	X	
ALTERNATE MEMBERS:	Open		
	Mike Powers	X	
STAFF:	Todd Penney, Town Engineer/Wetlands Agent	X	
STAFF:	Mindy Gosselin, Wetlands Agent Assistant	X	

**2. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS (2-minute time limit):**

No one was present to speak.

**3. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Violation- 89 Flanders Road – Owner: Joshua Beebe – Unpermitted work in the Upland Review Area and wetlands. Violation letter sent on: 5/12/2021.**

Josh Beebe was present.

Penney said a packet was distributed to the Members that included emails, sketches, and pictures of the subject property. At the May meeting, when this violation was brought to the attention of the IWA, the IWA required some temporary stabilization of the soil and to get wetland delineation mapping. This letter meets the first requirement of the conditions of the IWA from the May meeting. Wes Wentworth has been retained by the owner and visited the property last week to see the silt fence was installed, loam spread, and seeded. Mr. Beebe is on his way to compliance. Staff agrees the soil has been stabilized.

Josh Beebe said the stabilization of the soil has been done over the four weeks since the last meeting. Grass will be established to prevent erosion until Wes Wentworth can do the wetland mapping in the fall.

Gosselin is looking at one of the pictures that has vegetation pushed into the woods. Is that a wetlands? Penney said that pile is adjacent to the wetland in the upland review area. Penney and Beebe spoke about this during the site visit of June 17, 2021. The vegetation will be removed systematically with an excavator grabbing the trees, some with root balls, and move it to a location that Beebe can then cut into firewood. Beebe said the discussion included him having Staff on site at the start of the removal when Beebe has access to the equipment and a silt fence has been installed. Penney said he wanted approval from the IWA to remove that material with Staff knowing when it would be done and with Staff inspecting the progress of the removal. It is an impediment to the upland review area. The light blue line shown on the map shared was digitized from an A2 boundary map from the 1970s. The activity is immediately adjacent, may be encroaching, the wetland. The Willimantic River is 500' away. Laramee asked if the vegetation has to be taken out by machine or can it be manual labor? Penney said these are 60' – 70' oak trees with the root ball attached. A systematic removal over the next two months should not create a lot of disturbance. This vegetation may be in the way of Wentworth delineating the wetlands. Mr. Beebe would have use of a mini excavator with a 20' reach. Beebe can take one to trees out at a time and cut those into fire wood. Beebe can run the machine and not swing the tracks.

Penney recommends the IWA allow Mr. Beebe to do the systematic removal with Staff's oversight.

Choate said from the pictures it looks there is effort being made to stabilize the area which was the immediate concern. Did we put a timeframe for the next steps? Gosselin said Beebe had four weeks to put in the ENS controls and stabilize the soils. It appears a good faith effort is being made of the immediate steps we asked for.

Powers said what Penney has suggested is the way to go.

Mathieu said what disturbs her most is the picture showing the debris pile mentioned earlier. Mathieu is in agreement with removing this carefully and getting them out of there then getting the wetland boundary delineated and restored. She does like seeing all the remediation work that has been done since the previous meeting.

Beebe said the trees are at the edge of the wetlands and nothing beyond. He did not put anything into the wetlands. He does not see it being a problem to be there in a few months until September.

Woolf said he would like to see the wetlands delineated by the wetland scientist before giving any blessing. Powers said the topo allowed him to define where the wetlands are. The scientist has given some comfort where the wetland boundary is in his email to Staff. Mathieu said it seems obvious this is within 5' of where the boundary is. What Penney has laid out is to get the trees out of there one by one and placed outside of the area. Doing that over the summer and cleaning that up with as little disturbance as possible. That seems to be the agreement to the course of action. Powers said this does not to negate the need to ultimately know where the wetlands are.

Penney thinks a consensus of the IWA of the action plan is fine. Staff will continue to monitor the removal of the trees until Wentworth gets out there. We are not looking at restoration until the end of the year; it is not immediate but more prolonged.

Mathieu said she would like an update on the progress at the July and August meetings. At the September meeting we should have the wetland boundary mapped. The trees have to be out of the way for Wentworth to do his work. Beebe said he will try to arrange for the excavator and help over the Labor Day weekend. He feels this will take two full weekends to clean up. That timing will be close for having Wentworth able to do his work. July is about cutting corn for Beebe.

**B. 21-12W – North School Road – Applicant: Town of Coventry, Public Works; Owner: Same; Agent: Todd Penney. – Extend an existing cross culvert conveying an intermittent watercourse six (6') feet.**

Gosselin provided a memo to the Town and Penney. The plan proposes to extend a cross culvert to protect the existing edge of a gravel road. The intermittent watercourse is eroding the road.

Penney said Public Works was told to get out there because someone almost drove off the road. The road was eroding away and it was not passable. DPW fixed the downstream side only as a public safety measure. The work was done over a low flow. The trickle flow was sandbagged on the upside of the culvert and pumped the flow towards a larger culvert pipe done the road. That larger culvert is metal and it is failing; there is about a year left in the life of the pipe before it fails. The down side is very stable now. Penney said the DPW should only do the area that posed an immediate hazard to the driving public because IWA approval was not yet given. A picture of the pipe extension was shared. A rip rap surge and plunge pool was created. Haybales were put in for erosion control. There is not a lot of significant flow through the cross culvert. There is very little velocity coming through here. A picture of the inlet side shows no disturbance in that area. The pipe is not clogged on the inlet side. Penney said the plan, which he concurs with, is to give the inlet side the same treatment as the outlet. The rip rap here is so it is less likely to clog the pipe and cause it to fail. This activity can be done in a day.

Mathieu, Choate, Woolf, Powers, and Laramée are fine with these recommendations. Laramée added it is good news that no one got hurt.

Mathieu seated Powers for Briggs.

**Motion:** I move that the Coventry Inland Wetland Agency approve application 21-12W – North School Road – Applicant: Town of Coventry, Public Works; Owner: Same; Agent: Todd Penney. – Extend an existing cross culvert conveying an intermittent watercourse six (6') feet with the following conditions:

- Hold a preconstruction meeting with the applicant and any other subcontractors prior to the start of activities to review construction sequencing.
- All work shall be done during the dry season of the wetlands to minimize wetland disturbance.
- Additional erosion and sedimentation controls may be required as site conditions/weather warrant by the Wetlands Agent staff.

By: Choate

Seconded: Woolf

Voting:

For: Choate, Woolf, Mathieu, Laramée, Powers

Against: None

Abstain: None

**C. 21-13W – 1134 Main Street, Town of Coventry Library – Applicant: Town of Coventry; Owner: Same; Agent: Todd Penney. – Expand existing parking area to accommodate the Booth & Dimock Library project in Upland Review Area.**

Mathieu said a memo from Gosselin was given to the Members.

Gosselin went over her memo. Penney showed the location plan. The library expansion has been scaled down. The original plan was adding 8 spaces along the back side. The LeDoyt land donation has a wetlands complex. In the packet is a wetland report done by Emily Perko using GPS coordinates to locate the wetlands. A bit of the proposed parking area is in the upland review area. Penney proposes a 2' berm or stone buffer to take the sheet flow and infiltrate the water. Since the May meeting Penney went to the property to use the GPS machine and automatic level to get some grades. There is a predominant feature on this property that is a barrier for the parking. That is an existing stone wall along the library property line. There is not a lot of room between the wall and the proposed parking. Penney showed the new plans so they are not in the packet. Eight spaces are down to six spaces. There is not enough room to put in an additional two spaces as we would be on the stone wall. The six spaces are in the upland review area with about 5' to the wall. These are standard 9' x 18' parking bays. Adding a couple of spaces in the existing parking area allows for a total of 9 new parking spaces. All of the activity is inside the disturbance at the limits of grading. Instead of the rain garden that was previously proposed permeable pavement as a way of mitigating the stormwater impacts in the upland review area are being proposed. This will be a test pilot of permeable pavers in town. We can easily segregate the area in construction with a saw cut at the edge of the existing pavement. Maintenance of the difference surfaces will be needed. Penney feels this is a better option than an unmaintained rain garden that will probably fail quickly. Now water sheet flows off the parking lot into the back at the property line. There are no storm drains or curbing. It is very flat in this area. Construction will hold a 1.5% cross slope. With permeable pavement in the new area storm water will infiltrate down through the pavement.

Penney said the work will start in October 2021 per John Elsesser, Town Manager. It is expected to begin October 4<sup>th</sup> on or about with work completed by October 8<sup>th</sup>. The DPW crew will install the work. Penney explained the new permeable pavement section detail sheet. Penney said the activity is straightforward and of short duration. Flow will be maintained. Penney went over his memo from the May meeting with the changes shown in red.



## Town of Coventry

Office of the Town Engineer

Todd M. Penney, P.E. - Town Engineer | Wetlands Agent

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Phone: 860 742-4078 Fax: 860 742-5467 Web: coventryct.org

*TM Penney, P.E.*

Date: May 21, 2021 **Revision in red**

To: Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency

Re: Booth-Dimock Library Expansion Project  
Parking Lot Expansion – Upland Review Area Activities

The Town of Coventry is moving forward with a modest expansion of the Library to increase activity and gathering space. The modest expansion will require the parking facility to increase to meet the zoning parking requirements. The proposed improvements will be to add 940 total parking stalls at the northerly limits of the parking area. Currently there is drive aisle on the northerly limits and perpendicular parking spaces will be added.

The Town contracted with BEI Consultants to perform a wetland delineation and report as a wetland complex is located to the north of the activity. Emily Perko (former Wetlands Agent for Coventry via NCCD) performed the field delineation and her report is included supporting documentation for the application. The closest distance **the wetland complex is** from the proposed parking expansion is 58.1 feet on the **proposed westerly corner of the parking lot, side and 70.0 feet on the easterly side.** There will be **690 826** square feet of parking expansion within the 75-Foot Upland Review area. The total **regulated activity expansion area is 1,255 2,138** square feet. **These regulated activities include the parking expansion, silt fence installation and turf establishment for all other disturbed areas. The total area of disturbance required for the 9 parking space expansion is 2,827 square feet. Total area of pavement to be added is 1,814 square feet. There will be an additional 1,050 square feet of ground disturbance to construct the expansion which will be restored to grass conditions.**

**The Town is proposing to utilize a permeable asphalt for the 6 spaces (972 square feet) that intersect into the 75-Foot Upland Review Area of the down slope wetland complex. This permeable asphalt will be the first incorporated into a Town parking facility. The area for the 6 spaces was chosen as it was deemed to easily segregate that area for standard snow plowing maintenance.**

**Permeable Asphalt Area = 18' x 54' = 972 SF**

**Proposed Reservoir Layer will have an affect depth across the 54' of 9" total. (6" of slope needs to be accommodated in reservoir layer).**

**Reservoir Layer Storage Volume = 972 SF x 9" (.75') = 729 CF @ 30% void ratio = 218.7CF  
218.7CF / 972 SF allows for 0.23' of rain water or 2 3/4" rain event.**

~~two (2') foot stone perimeter will be added to mitigate the stormwater flow from the new expansion area to minimize impacts and maintain the existing sheet flow off of the parking lot.~~

The project, to be completed by Town Forces, will implement appropriate Erosion and Control Measures as required. The work is expected to take 3 to 5 days to complete start to finish.

T:\E-FILES\Main Street - CT RT 31\Parcel\1134 - R00000 - Booth Dimock Library\2021 - parking expansion\wetlands\submit\2021-0623 meeting\Wetlands Application Memo Revised.docx 1 of 1

The Members did not have any questions.

Mathieu said that we know that with permeable pavement over time the permeability does erodes. What is the maintenance of the permeable and does it last as long as impermeable pavement? Penney said there are studies still being made. They may last 10 – 12 years. Gosselin’s memo suggests a possible condition of approval to be a proof of inspection in the spring each year. Organics collection may be minimized by trimming the trees and blowing off the organics. Once a year DPW has vac truck that can be used to suck out the voids. This will provide a benchmark for the IWA and the Town of how permeable pavers will work.

The concrete 6’ beehive will not be touched. The pipe to the beehive is clean; it has good receiving soils for the permeable paver area. Doing a perc test and test hole in advance is a good idea. The receiving soils have to be pretty good based on Penney’s engineering expertise.

**Motion:** I move the Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency approve application 21-13W – 1134 Main Street, Town of Coventry Library – Applicant: Town of Coventry; Owner: Same;

Agent: Todd Penney. – Expand existing parking area to accommodate the Booth & Dimock Library project in Upland Review Area with the following conditions:

- Hold a preconstruction meeting with the applicant and any other subcontractors prior to the start of activities to review construction sequencing.
- The applicant/owner shall submit to the Wetlands Agent a proof of inspection for each storm water mitigation feature once a year in the spring on a form to be provided by the Town of Coventry Wetlands staff.
- Additional erosion and sedimentation controls may be required as site conditions/weather warrant by the Wetlands Agent staff.

By: Choate

Seconded: Woolf

Voting:

For: Choate, Woolf, Powers, Laramée, Mathieu

Against: None

Abstain: None

#### 4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None

#### 5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

##### **A. May 26, 2021 – Regular Meeting**

**Motion:** I move the Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency approve the meeting minutes of the May 26, 2021 regular meeting.

By: Woolf

Seconded: Choate

Voting:

For: Choate, Woolf, Powers, Laramée

Against: None

Abstain: Mathieu

##### **B. June 17, 2021 – Special Meeting**

**Motion:** I move the Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency approve the meeting minutes of the June 17, 2021 special meeting.

By: Choate

Seconded: Laramée

Voting:

For: Choate, Mathieu, Powers, Laramée

Against: None

Abstain: Woolf

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **A. Coventry Lake – Docks, Moorings, etc.**

Gosselin received email from Jeff Rowe who had a few questions about the littoral rights on the lake. He had concerns about docks or moorings being too far out into the water. The email was deferred to Eric Trott because he has more experience with these matters and has DEEP experience. Trott's email response was included which said this is DEEP's jurisdiction. There is a police officer on the lake during the summer months for safety, not how amenities may impede the waters. Mathieu was concerned if Rowe's question was answered in who had jurisdiction in Trott's response. Penney noted that Trott said the DEEP Boating division has jurisdiction.

IWA has taken the approach that a dock is a temporary mooring that gets removed each year. We do not require permits for these. It is nebulous where a property owner owns into the lake. The Town takes the approach that DEEP regulates water activity. The Town owns the lake. Choate said if it is a temporary hazard on the lake someone should be able to regulate that. Marine Safety Officer and DEEP should discuss it and see if there is an issue. Penney said there is no dock that is 80' into the lake; 40' or 60', maybe. 80' is hyperbole at best.

Mathieu said it would be good to get some guidance in writing that helps with this, moorings, safety, etc. This is something that we have to think about as there are new people around the lake. The traditions that we have had may go away. Woolf said the elected people may have something to say about it.

Mathieu said she is concerned that this person has been answered. In the end, IWA should reach out so we know and we understand. Gosselin will follow up.

### **B. Sewer Lining Project around Coventry Lake – WPCA**

Penney said a WPCA technician has been filming and looking for infiltration of their sewer lines. Part of the line runs under the water. WPCA is planning to do something this fall. At this time there is no disturbance. Basically, they are lining the cast iron pipe with a thin, rigid material so water does not infiltrate the sewer lines. Of more concern to the IWA than downstream and the manholes is the pipe along the edge of Nathan Hale Cemetery. As more information becomes available Staff will let the IWA know.

Mathieu asked what the chemical is they are using to cure the inside of the pipe? Laramee said styrene that sets right up. If not done correctly you can have a chemical spill. Mathieu said because of where this will be taking place the WPCA must be mindful of how it is done. Staff will get some answers. This is scheduled to be done in the fall. The pipe is underneath the lakebed. There is infiltration of water into the sewer pipes causing more flows into the treatment plant than they need. This is the main trunk line that was put in in the mid-1980s.

## **7. DISCUSSION:**

Penney said the Legislature has passed regulations about having in person meetings again. He needs to read more about the Town Attorney's opinion on this. The Annex is set up for 4 audience members. Penney thinks we will be going to in person meeting in July. We can

talk about virtual access but you can plan to come to the annex if you desire.

Gosselin said the sunset date of either in person, fully remote, or hybrid is August 2022. Notices have to be published in newspapers as of July 1, 2021; these cannot be only posted on the website.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:** I move the Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency adjourn at 9:31 p.m.

By: Choate

Seconded: Woolf

Voting:

For: Choate, Mathieu, Laramée, Powers, Woolf

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.**