

**COVENTRY INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER:

By: Woolf

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Town Hall Annex

ROLL CALL:

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

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS: NONE

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING FOLLY LANE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT:

Todd Penney, Town Engineer/Wetlands Agent introduced himself. John Elsesser, Town Engineer also introduced himself. Staff introduced Gary Giroux, the design engineer hired for the project. Gary Giroux from Cardinal Engineering was present to share plans for the proposed replacement of the Folly Lane Bridge over the Skungamaug River. Mr. Giroux explained that funding for the bridge replacement is through the LOTCIP program. The construction cost of the project is covered 100% by the State of Connecticut. The Town only has to cover the design fees. The original bridge was built a long time ago, exact year unknown,

and was rehabbed in the 1970s. It currently has stone masonry abutments which are soft at the toe and have some voids. The bridge is not wide enough for current safety standards. At 15-feet wide it is “functionally obsolete” only allowing one vehicle at a time. The current rails are inadequate.

The new bridge will be two 12-foot-wide lanes made from single-span, pre-stressed concrete. The new abutments will be behind the current bridge abutments making the bridge 11-feet longer. It will pass the CT DOT design flow standards. The design also maintains the FEMA floodway and the riprap is minimized to stay out of the river. The new design maintains fish passages in the river. There will be no change to the road alignment. Closing the road and detouring traffic for the duration allows for completion of the project during one construction season (spring to fall). The proposed construction plan has been submitted to the Army Corp of Engineers and CT DEEP and both agree with the proposed process.

Paul Wilson – 1283 North River Road: What will be the weight limit? Mr. Giroux said that there won't be a specific weight limit. The bridge will meet DOT bridge standards.

Candy Wilson – 1283 North River Road: Why does it have to be two lanes? Mr. Giroux said that safety standards from above require current safety protocols to be met for bridge replacements. Staff said that we are building outside of the river corridor.

Ms. Wilson said that she's concerned about the rare raptors. She's already reported them to CT DEEP and the Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB). She said that area is a primary hunting ground for raptors, owls and bald eagles. Staff said that at the recent interdepartmental meeting DEEP mentioned the NDDDB concern from a neighbor. The Town Manager said similarly there are concerns with endangered bats in town so tree work can only be done outside of their breeding season.

Ms. Wilson said she's documented these rare raptors on her property for two decades. Town Manager and Staff said that DEEP's concerns will be addressed. Ms. Wilson said that she's concerned that the birds need to swoop into small areas under the bridge to hunt in the river. Mr. Giroux asked if it wouldn't help then to have the area under the bridge expanded. Ms. Wilson said no because the bridge is covering more of the river hunting ground. Staff explained that the bridge is being widened from about 16-feet wide to approximately 26-feet wide. He doesn't think that it will be much of an issue but will follow DEEP plans.

The Town Manager explained that if the bridge is not replaced to today's, 2-way standards, there are two big issues – 1) The Town would bear the full cost of the bridge replacement as grant funds require meeting safety standards – 2) The Town would be open to liability if we didn't replace the bridge to today's safety standards and something happened.

Town Manager said that DEEP had requirements for the Jones Crossing Bridge project for a herpetologist to monitor for endangered wood turtles and for working in the trees only to be

done during certain times because of bats. The Town would adhere to any requirements for the Folly Lane Bridge project just as we did for Jones Crossing.

Staff said that the project is currently in the process of attaining local wetlands permitting. It is also going through the Army Corps of Engineers and CT DEEP review for permitting. The hope is to obtain all permits by early 2020 and go out to bid in early Spring 2020 with construction during the 2020 construction season.

Staff said he has been in contact with the owners of Skungamaug River Golf Course and the property owner with a driveway adjacent to the bridge to discuss impacts of construction.

Staff thanked the public for their input and said comments would be addressed.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **#19-29W** – Anthony Skut Applicant/Owner; Proposed Removal of concrete slabs in Upland Review Area of Coventry Lake, Shore Drive Map 00R, Block 0002, Lot 015A)

Anthony Skut explained that he owns a ten-foot wide strip of land to access Coventry Lake. Staff handed out pictures of current conditions.

Mr. Skut explained that there is erosion washing away towards the lake. There's a big concrete block lifting from tree roots. He'd like to tear out the existing blocks and put in granite steps/patio blocks. He'd like to put the stones starting where the current blocks are and go away from the lake from there. He's willing to use pea stone or whatever the IWA thinks is appropriate.

Briggs asked what would be between the blocks, like a patio? Skut said some kind of stone to allow water to go through but stop erosion.

Powers said he wouldn't use pea stone since it's round – it would wash out. He suggests crushed stone.

Staff said that the IWA is accepting the application tonight. He'd like to go out to the site with Mr. Skut and stake out exactly the work area.

Staff asked where Mr. Skut planned for the work to start. Mr. Skut said that he plans to start at the current location of the cement blocks and work away from the lake.

Staff asked if that was the demarcation line. Mr. Skut said yes.

Staff said he would meet Mr. Skut on-site and come up with a memo for the next meeting re: materials and plan. The matter will be put on the November 20th agenda for decision.

B. **#19-30W** – Applicant/Owner, Joe Boucher, Agent; Proposed Foundation for Future Garage in the Upland Review Area of Coventry Lake, 231 Standish Road

Joe Boucher, MS, LS of Towne Engineering was present as well as owner, Tom Crossen. Mr. Boucher explained that the proposal is for a 24 ft. x 24 ft. garage. The location is within the 515' line so it is within the Regulated Area. The plan is to use double silt fencing. The existing lot coverage is 10.6%. With removing an existing shed and construction of the new garage, the lot coverage would increase to 14%. There was a new septic system installed in 1997 with concrete galleries. Shortly after that the house connected to sewer. They retained the concrete galleries for future use. They are proposing to use the existing galleries for stormwater mitigation. Due to concerns about condition of the galleries previously expressed by the IWA, Mr. Boucher explained that they dug up the concrete gallery and found it to be in brand new condition. The pipes were good and wide-open. A letter from Matthew Maynard, PE was submitted and certified that, based on his professional opinion, the gallery system is suitable for stormwater infiltration well in excess of what's required for the proposed garage.

Staff asked if Mr. Boucher had the volume of the galleries. Mr. Boucher said yes – they need to mitigate 52.3 cubic feet of stormwater and the galleries can hold 187 cubic feet, 357% of what's needed.

Briggs asked how the stormwater will be routed. Boucher said the roof gutters and yard drain will run to the galleries.

Staff said what's not mentioned is the existing parking pad near the garage location. Will that be paved? Boucher said they have no plans to pave that area. It will remain gravel.

Staff said that the work is within 150-ft. but it's 105-ft. from the line. They are as far out as they can be and still meet Zoning Regulations. They are addressing construction impacts with erosion controls. They are removing a shed. There is conscientious engineering for stormwater management. You can put this on the November agenda or you can remand it to Staff, if you are comfortable, for approval after the 2-week delay if you feel it addresses all of your concerns. Information on the galleries – good condition per the Engineer. Double rows of silt fencing will address E&S controls. Staff has no concerns based on the October 8, 2019 memo from the Engineer.

Woolf said he sees no reason to wait until November. No new information is expected or needed.

Briggs said that the application speaks to the questions they had.

Motion: The Coventry Inland Wetlands Commission accepts application #19-30W of Tom Crossen Applicant/Owner, Joe Boucher, Agent; Proposed Activity: Foundation for Future Garage in the Upland Review Area of Coventry Lake, 231 Standish Road, and remands approval to the Wetlands Agent per statutory guidelines because concerns have been addressed.

By: Briggs

Seconded: Powers

For: Briggs, Powers, Woolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

IWA agreed to jump ahead to 6D due to applicants being present.

- D. **#14-05W – Mod 01** – Applicant/Owner Richard Warriner, Request for Extension and Modification of existing wetlands permit to include lake wall reconstruction and associated grading, 223 Woodland Road.

Rick Warriner and his contractor, Jeff Hutton from EarthWorks were present to request an extension and modification to the wetlands permit previously obtained for the demo rebuild of the home and garage at 223 Woodland Road. The current permit expired in April of 2019.

Staff said that the retaining wall work was on the site plan that was originally approved but the activity of rebuilding the wall wasn't included in the original permit. Staff said that since the original permit expired in April 2019, it would need to be extended before it can be modified.

Mr. Warriner said that when the house project was being done the plans were prepared by Holmes and Henry. Jeff Hutton of EarthWorks did the landscaping plan. Phase 1, building the new house, and Phase 2, demolishing the old house and building the garage are done. Mr. Warriner said that the plans by Holmes and Henry showed from the wall up. The concrete cap was damaged when the sewer was run prior to his ownership. He said he doesn't like concrete so he wants to take out the current wall which is literally falling into the lake, and replace it with repurposed natural stones from the property.

Mr. Warriner requests a 5-year extension to his original permit. He also requests a modification to rebuild the wall at the lakeside with a slight curve out of natural stone. He's hoping to get approval for Staff to handle this matter instead of having to come back to the IWA due to timeframes.

Staff said the first item is the extension. A 5-year extension is allowed. Second for the modification, this work was always intended to be done but there was failure to show the wall on the Holmes and Henry site plan in support of the wetlands application.

Staff said the wall is currently leaning into the lake. There are currently stairs that channel water and cause sedimentation. They are going to capture that water to prevent channelization. Mr. Warriner was hoping to start this project immediately and Staff had to give him the bad news about the expired permit/required modification. Staff recommends extending to a maximum of 5 years then modifying for the wall. This doesn't have statutory downtime. Since this project is maintenance and a failing, existing structure, is part of the general intent of the previous permit and Staff believes the sewer line is contributing to the wall failure by allowing water to bleed through. There will be better drainage materials and rocks for filtering water. Staff's recommendation is to allow for the extension and modification to allow starting immediately. The conditions of approval of the original permit are still valid. Contact the Wetlands Agent prior to the start of work.

Briggs asked if they would repurpose the cement capstone. Mr. Hutton said the cement would be taken offsite and the stone will be reused. Mr. Warriner said that he has some large boulders from building the house that are to be reused in the project.

Briggs said clearly the wall is failing.

Mr. Warriner said sorry for letting the permit expire. He didn't realize that it expired in April and he wouldn't have been able to do the work then due to higher water levels.

Motion: The Coventry Inland Wetlands Commission approves the Request for Extension to permit #14-05W with a new expiration date of April 23, 2024 - Applicant/Owner Richard Warriner, Property located at 223 Woodland Road.

By: Woolf

Seconded: Powers

For: Briggs, Powers, Woolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

Motion: The Coventry Inland Wetlands Commission approves Modification Request #14-05W-MOD 01 to include lake wall reconstruction and associated grading - Applicant/Owner Richard Warriner, Property located at 223 Woodland Road.

By: Powers

Seconded: Briggs

For: Briggs, Powers, Woolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

C. **#19-32W** – Town of Coventry Applicant/Owner, Cardinal Engineering, Agents; Proposed Replacement of Folly Lane Bridge over the Skungamaug River, Folly Lane

Staff detailed the disturbance areas as 148-square feet of wetlands, 183-square feet of watercourse disturbance and 7, 130 square feet of Upland Review Area. The design was chosen to minimize in-stream activities. Soil scientist report?

Staff feels that this project meets the criteria for a Public Hearing for wetlands purposes.

There were still questions – How are we going to coffer dam? Why the need? What are the impacts to the river? Maintain the fish passage.

Powers said that the sequence of construction wasn't addressed.

Staff said we've been in touch with abutters. The Agency deserves presentation from the soil scientist. Mr. and Mrs. Motyka are concerned about the impact the detour will have on the golf tournaments and golf cart delivery to the golf course. The Town might need to make updates to allow for the large truck delivery to the golf course. The bridge needs to be done.

Staff suggests accepting the application and setting a public hearing for December 11, 2019.

Motion: The Coventry Inland Wetlands Commission accepts application **#19-32W** – Town of Coventry Applicant/Owner, Cardinal Engineering, Agents; Proposed Replacement of Folly Lane Bridge over the Skungamaug River, Folly Lane, and sets a Public Hearing for Wednesday, December 11, 2019 during the wetlands meeting.

By: Powers

Seconded: Briggs

For: Briggs, Powers, Woolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: The Coventry Inland Wetlands Commission accepts the minutes of the June 26, 2019 meeting, as submitted.

By: Powers

Seconded: Briggs

For: Briggs, Powers, Woolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

Motion: The Coventry Inland Wetlands Commission accepts the minutes of the August 28, 2019 meeting, as submitted.

By: Woolf

Seconded: Briggs

For: Briggs, Powers, Woolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

Approval of the September 25, 2019 minutes is postponed until the November meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Copies of the CT DEEP Renewal of the Diversion Permit for Skungamaug Golf Course was passed out to members for informational purposes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Woolf adjourned the meeting at 8:38.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi A. Leech

Heidi A. Leech, Substitute IWA Recording Clerk

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