

DURHAM INLAND WETLANDS and WATERCOURSES AGENCY

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 14, 2008

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Vice-Chairman Richard Eriksen at the Durham Public Library.

Roll Call: Members present: Bob Czarnecki, Pat Dinatale, Dick Eriksen, Joel LaBella, Chris Meisenkothen and Al Petrzal. Alternates Present: None. Others Present: Geoff Colegrove, Trish Dynia, * applicants and/or their agents.

Seating of Alternates: None

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Approval of Agenda: *A motion was made by Bob Czarnecki, seconded by Al Petrzal, to approve the agenda as published. The motion passed unanimously.*

Approval of Minutes: None

Public Session: None.

The Caturano Property, Review Final Plan for Conservation Easement, 385 and 389 Wallingford Road: The applicant was not present, but Mr. Eriksen reported that the Conservation Commission conducted a site walk of the proposed easement on 6/21/2008, and subsequently approved the easement at it's 7/8/2008 meeting. The applicant must file the revised map with easement at the Town Clerk's office.

A motion was made by Pat Dinatale, seconded by Bob Czarnecki, to accept the easement agreement as appropriate mitigation of wetlands filling. The motion passed unanimously.

Ron Melnik, Informal Discussion of Proposed Activity within 100' of a Wetland, Coginchaug High School Athletic Field, Picket Lane: District Thirteen Business Manager Ron Melnik explained that with the legal delay regarding the referendum, the building committee has had the opportunity to re-review the track and parking expansion proposal. Board of Education Member Bill Currelin distributed a map outlining an 8' x 140' hook shaped piece of land immediately adjacent to the proposed eight-lane track. Standard engineering procedures in place when the track was built in the 1970's have created a swampy area containing wetland type soils. (Therefore the area meets the criteria for a designated wetlands.)

The Commission recommended that District Thirteen file a formal application to fill in what appears to be a low quality wetland, in exchange for a conservation easement on another part of the property. At that point the Commission would review and determine if a public hearing is

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warranted. Mr. Colegrove noted that the standard swap ration is 4 to 1 and the piece in questions is approximately 5,000 square feet.

Attorney John Corona suggested that since the project will eventually entail the addition of 200+ parking spots and an extensive drainage system, it would be prudent to have those specific details noted on the “swap” application. Mr. Eriksen disagreed, stating that the goal now is to review a specific wetlands. The entire project will be reviewed at a later date.

Anna Jameson, Proposed Activity within 100’ of a Pond to Construct a Deck, 85 DiNatale Drive: The applicant stated that she had built a 16’ x 20’ detached pole deck ten to fifteen feet from a man made pond on the property. Mr. Colegrove noted that he inspected the property after receiving a phone call from another landowner. He determined that there are no wetland soils, the area is not being disturbed, nor was it disturbed during construction. He stated that water flows down the hill to the pond as it did before.

A motion was made by Bob Czarnecki, seconded by Al Petrzal, that there is no activity in the wetlands. The motion passed unanimously with Pat DiNatale abstaining.

A motion was made by Bob Czarnecki, seconded by Chris Meisenkothen, to approve the application to construct a deck. The motion passed unanimously with Pat DiNatale abstaining. .

Don McMahon, Proposed Activity within 100’ of a Pond to Drill a Well and Erect a Windmill, 567 Higganum Road: The applicant proposed drilling a well and erecting a windmill on the south end of an existing 140’ x 285’ pond in order to replenish water lost during the summer months due to evaporation and drought. The well and tower would be placed in the review area approximately 26’ from the pond. Four holes, approximately 8’9” from each corner post, would be dug. The windmill would contain an aeration pump to add oxygen to the pond. Water and air would be discharged directly from the windmill, going north underground into the pond. This process would also require cutting down six dead trees and one large live tree within the proposed windmill footprint.

A motion was made by Pat Dinatale, seconded by Joel LaBella, that there is no activity in the wetlands. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Bob Czarnecki, seconded by Pat Dinatale, to approve windmill and well installation to support the pond. The motion passed unanimously.

Wetlands Enforcement Officer’s Report: Dick Eriksen asked if the recent Flood Plane changes made to the Town’s Planning & Zoning Regulations would be incorporated into it’s Inland Wetlands Regulations as well. Mr. Colegrove replied that the regulations had not changed. The corresponding maps, originally done in the 1970’s had been redone using 21st century technology.

Payment of Bills: None

Miscellaneous: Mr. Eriksen announced that Alternate Member Karen Cheyney was now serving as the town’s Democratic Registrar of Voters. Ms. Cheyney has asked whether this is considered a conflict of interest requiring her to resign from the Commission. The recording secretary will look into the matter.

Adjournment: Dick Eriksen adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dynia
Recording Secretary

Cc: Town Clerk, Midstate Regional Planning Agency

* Prior to the start of the meeting, Vice-Chairman Eriksen announced that Alternate Member Trish Dynia had resigned from the Commission in order to serve again as its Recording Secretary.