

RECV'D: Office of the Town Clerk Jan.4, 2016 4:12pm  
DURHAM INLAND WETLANDS  
and  
WATERCOURSES AGENCY  
Durham Town Hall  
Durham, CT 06422

Minutes of December 14, 2015 Regular Meeting

Mr. Eriksen opened the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Attendance:

MEMBERS & ALTERNATES	
Cascini, Peter	X
Cheyney, Karen	X
DeFelice, Frank	X
Eriksen, Richard	X
Meisenkothen, Chris	A
Riotte, Gene	X
Ward, William	X
<i>Alternates</i>	
Augur, Phil	X
Battista, Arnold	A
Laudano, Mark	X
<i>Others</i>	
Colegrove, Geoffrey	X

**Seating of Alternates**

Mark Laudano was seated for Chris Meisenkothen.

**Amendments to the Agenda**

None.

**Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Peter Cascini, seconded by Frank DeFelice, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Peter Cascini, seconded by Bill Ward, to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2015 meeting. Motion passed with Karen Cheyney abstaining.

**Public Session**

None.

**Connecticut Park & Forest Timber Harvest, Higganum Rd. and Bear Rock Rd.**

Lindsey Sur, Connecticut Forest and Park Association introduced herself to the commission. She presented some plans with maps and mentioned that the consulting forester, Eric Hansen, will be addressing the

commission. Mr. Hansen stated that he was hired by the CT Forest and Park Association to do the oversight and administration of this timber harvest. The harvest area was pointed out on the provided map. The goal of the harvest is to take about a ¼ of the trees out, the trees are marked. In addition to the timber harvest there will be a demonstration area for a project being done in cooperation with utilities in the state, the CT Agricultural Experiment station and the UCONN extension service. The project is called Storm Wise. The project was developed after all of the major storms of the past few years and the idea is to try and actively manage forests along the roadsides and along the utility right of ways to minimize the impact over time that storm damage has on infrastructure. The way to do this is to treat the roadsides. There was discussion of the process of the timber harvest. The harvesting will be based on weather conditions and the type of equipment the operator has. This will determine the length of the project but a year has been planned for although it most likely will not take this long. The start date has not yet been determined.

A motion was made by Frank DeFelice, seconded by Peter Cascini, that there is no activity proposed in the wetland and to acknowledge the Connecticut Forest and Park Association's plans for harvesting trees on their Higganum Road and Bear Rock Road property and no permit is required. Motion passed.

**Andrew DiSilvestro, Jr., Construction of a deck within the 100' Review Area, 16 Old Powder Hill Rd.**

Mr. DiSilvestro spoke to the commission. He stated that currently the property has a deck that is 10'x23'. The proposed project is to add a 6' extension on the back side. The plans and maps showing the wetland area were presented to the commission. There are no disturbances to the wetlands; the project is just within the 100' review area.

A motion was made by Peter Cascini, seconded by Frank DeFelice, to approve the application of Andrew DiSilvestro, Jr. for the construction of a deck within the 100' upland review area, 16 Old Powder Hill Road. Motion passed.

**Town of Durham, Public Safety Complex Project, Main Street**

Andy, representative of the Public Safety Facilities Planning Committee, addressed the commission. He stated they have an application for a revised plan, the original having gone under some major revisions. The plan is to keep the house at 51 Main Street, reduced to its original size, and place a 3 bay carriage house type garage behind it, separate and not attached to 51 Main Street. There will be an addition to the north end of the firehouse and on 37 Main Street, the existing structure will remain and doing extensive renovations and adding an addition to the back end of the structure extending eastward. There will be a two bay vehicle garage to the south. The plan was presented to the Historic Commission and the design development plan was approved. Construction plans will be presented following further town approval.

Don Smith, professional engineer, Silver Petrucelli, was present to discuss the site issues of the plan. The site is comprised of three lots, 37 Main Street, a long narrow property, 41 Main Street, occupied by the fire station, and 51 Main Street which backs up to houses on Cherry Lane. The internal property lines will go away; one 4.91 acre parcel will be established. There are wetlands on the north and south end of the property and were pointed out on several provided maps and plans. Mr. Smith discussed the plans for the renovations of the buildings and additions as well as parking accommodations. There was discussion of storm water discharge and management and the current and proposed septic systems and a current agreement with the Durham Fair Association. There was a question for the need of the carriage house. It was stated that the intent of the 3 bay carriage house was to help offset some of the extensive overcrowding of vehicles both in the fire house as well vehicles and trailers used by emergency management and smaller vehicles used by both the fire company and the ambulance corp. Ms. Cheyney questioned whether or not the change in use could possibly harm the wetlands with storage of fuel, washing of vehicles, etc. She was concerned about an increase in toxic ingredients so close to the wetlands. As part of the proposal there will be internal drains with

underwater separators and holding tanks as well as propane heating so that the wetlands are not in jeopardy. Mr. Eriksen stated that he is uncomfortable approving a plan without really knowing what the plan is. Mr. Eriksen stated without approval from the Fair Association they cannot proceed. Mr. Colegrove stated that the properties will be combined to one parcel; all calculations done are based on the fact that it will be a 4+ acre site, not three separate parcels. Mr. Colegrove gave suggestions as to what should be done, including a report from the town engineer, a plan for storm water management and the septic plan, in order to get approval from the various commissions. Mr. Eriksen stated that more specifics are required to proceed. He does not want to set a precedent or open doors to lawsuits. Mr. Eriksen stated that this item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Approval of 2016 Meeting Dates**

A motion was made by Bill Ward, seconded by Gene Riotte, to approve the presented meeting dates for 2016. Motion passed.

### **Wetlands Enforcement Officer's Report**

Mr. Colegrove stated that the skating pond was worked on. The vegetation was removed and taken offsite. Mr. Colegrove received a call from Public Works informing him that work was done on Airline Drive on the fire pond. Mr. Colegrove stated the job was very well done.

### **Payment of bills**

None.

### **Miscellaneous**

River Cog is now actively moving forward with the Plan of Conservation and Development for the region. There is a plan of conservation and it is on line. In the month of June there is going to be visioning sessions for the plan of conservation and development and they are looking for exciting venues, such as Powder Ridge or Lyman, or someplace else. There was a brief discussion on this topic.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Keogh

Jennifer Keogh  
Administrative Coordinator  
Town of Durham