

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Town of Trumbull

CONNECTICUT

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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5005



MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Richard Girouard Vice-Chairman John Lauria
Secretary Richard Deecken Carmine DeFeo
Mark MacKeil Tony Silber

ABSENT: Laura Pulie, alternate, David Verespy

ALSO

PRESENT: Tatiana Smotritskaya, P.E. Assistant Town Engineer, IWWC Co-Agent, Jim Bova, Civil Engineer, Town Attorney James Cordone

The following is a brief summary of the meeting. A complete record is on tape, on file, in the office of the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission located in the Trumbull Town Hall.

The Chairman welcomed new Commissioner Tony Silber.

NEW BUSINESS OPENED at 7:05 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Application 19-43 Town of Trumbull-Permit approval for improvements to the riparian buffer, pond water quality, culverts and to facilitate pond maintenance within a regulated area at Twin Brooks Park. Joseph Canas of Tighe & Bond gave a brief overview of Twin Brooks Park. He stated that a lot of the culverts there are in poor condition and covered by so much sediment you can't find them. The outlet control structures are all in various states of disrepair. Part of this project is to replace the outlet control structures, replace the culverts and to improve some of the riparian buffers. There is Twin Brooks Drive on the left and Booth Hill brook on the right and the road is right on top of that brook. One of the objectives is to repair that riparian buffer. The proposed improvements are replacing all the culverts that inter connect the ponds, replacing the outlet control structures. The culverts will be replaced with the same size culverts there are today except for the 2 culverts leading from Booth Hill brook. During an onsite meeting with DEEP fisheries in December they said they wanted to see improvements to these culverts. They will be changed to box culverts with the lowest 12 inches of that box culvert sunk beneath grade to simulate an actual stream bottom. In addition they are placing boulders in front of those culvert entrances to encourage low flow to continue down Booth Hill brook so as the flow rises the overflow will go into those culverts into the internal pond system. The outlet control structures

will be changed to a standardized design using flash boards which will enable the Parks Dept. to adjust the water elevations as needed to encourage water exchange through the various ponds on the site. The biggest benefit is the improvements to the riparian buffer. Twin Brooks Drive will be relocated. It will be pulled back in some areas by about 50-60 feet from the edge. They will replant, restabilize the bank and fix erosion by putting in plantings and laying back the slope. There will be no additional fill in the floodplain. Thereby not increasing flood elevations. In addition in the northern portion they are re enforcing the turf to allow maintenance vehicles to pass. Also where the road was they are constructing a paved 8 foot wide pedestrian walkway. In the southern portion there will be a little bit of widening of the road. Erosion issues will be addressed. A sediment control plan is in place. As a result of the relocation of the road unfortunately around 10-12 trees will be removed. A planting plan will include 44 new trees and a series of shrubs. Overall the disturbance on this project is 3732 square feet permanent and 5704 square feet temporary. In addition to the local wetlands permit a permit from DEEP for water quality certification will be needed because of the length of the stream bank that will be disturbed and an Army Corp of Engineers general permit will be needed for same reason. The Commission asked how long this project will be. Mr. Canos said about 2 years. The Commission asked what the maximum storm event that these culverts can handle. Mr. Canas said the storm event will be for a 50 year event on Booth Hill brook. With that said the whole park is under water because of the Pequonnock River which is a bigger influence and has the ability to inundate the park more than Booth Hill brook. It was designed for Booth Hill brook. Dmitri Paris, Parks Superintendent advised the Commission that the goal of this project is to try to restore what has already failed and to allow Twin Brooks to flood properly. Twin Brooks is a vital component to the Town in that it is a watershed area that actually captures a lot of these floods. It's horrific what happens in that area but the bigger issue is if it wasn't there what would happen to the rest of the town. Twin Brooks serves a purpose. The issue is the way that it floods. It floods hostilely with great velocity and it creates cascade effects of failure. Allowing to capture a lot of this force slower and allow the entire watershed area to fill up like a bath tub it will eliminate a greater amount of successful failure and damage within the park. It's not going to create a situation where Twin Brooks no longer flood quite the opposite. It will continue to flood but it will continue to flood in a managed way. The Commission asked if it was ever considered to disconnect some of these ponds so these floods would not happen. Mr. Canas said that the state would likely not allow that because they would consider that an enlargement of the waters of the state and that is a very difficult permit process to get through. Also it effects wetlands habitat and wildlife. The enlargement of state waters is discouraged by the state. The Commission asked if some trees would be able to remain. Mr. Canos said he did note that there are some trees that are not marked and would likely be effected. However they did include 44 trees in the planting plan. Mr. Paris said the goal is to save whatever trees they can and this plan is for a worst case scenario. The Commission thinks that if this project is approved the message that this is not going to stop the flooding should be put out to the public.

Application 19-40 Elizabeth Gisolfi- Permit approval for previously removed tree stump and applied topsoil to lawn within a regulated area at 2 Highfield Drive. Elizabeth Gisolfi and Marie Arduinni addressed the Commission. She had a dead tree stump removed and added topsoil to the lawn. The Chair informed the Commission that this was a violation and the stump was already removed and top soil applied. The owners said they did not know there are wetlands on the property. The IWWC Co-Agent went over the timeline of the violation. She said she has asked for a more detailed plan because at the time of the inspection it appears there was also a tiered wall constructed that is not depicted on the plan and she doesn't see the difference between existing and preexisting grading. She has encouraged the applicant to propose a planting plan. Ms. Gisolfi said a planting plan is included in application. The IWWC Co-Agent suggested that it be added to the plan and that the wetlands regulated area be indicated on the plan. The applicant said the wall is not in the regulated area. She said the wall was existing and they just changed the façade. The Commission asked how much topsoil was applied. The applicant said topsoil was applied to the whole property.

Application 19-41 Michael Fleahman-Permit approval to remove & grind tree stumps, install swale & berm; 3 raingardens, replace shed and remove rock wall within a regulated area at 22 Camelot Drive. Michael Fleahman, owner told the Commission that they get runoff from their neighbors across the property into an existing swale which then outlets into his neighbors across the yard. The runoff slows in his backyard and becomes very soggy. They have been losing about 1 tree a year. They would like to improve the drainage across the property to get full utilization of the yard by having grass all the way to the back, replace the shed and get rid of some of the trees. They are proposing a series of swales and raingardens and a berm catching the runoff and direct it towards a new raingarden. The trees in the corner that are split are losing limbs so they would like to remove those. Some shrubs will be put on the berm along with grass for stability and privacy. The plantings in the rain garden are based on UCONN raingarden plantings. To capture the runoff in the back of the property there will be a swale and a berm. The berm will continue along the back and the overflow will run along the property line into a raingarden in the regulated area. There are some pine trees that they would like to remove because the existing swale already disturbed the root systems. There will be a new location for the shed. They plan on eliminating the wall and extending the grass out to the back. There are a number of tree stumps that fell in the back of the property where they plan on grinding down the stumps. The Commission asked if the 6 stumps listed on the map is the extent of the stump grinding. The applicant said yes. The trees that are outside of where they are going to put the berm or swale they would like to grind down. The Commission asked if the wooden fence will be removed. Mr. Fleahman said the fence would not be disturbed. The Commission asked if the berms are on the downside of the swales. He said they are. The IWWC Co-Agent asked what the shed was going to be placed on. The applicant said on blocks. She recommended that if being elevated crushed stone should be installed underneath. She asked that the silt fence be extended to protect neighbor from being impacted from the construction. He will add more silt fence. She asked for maintenance plan for raingarden for the homeowners benefit. He said he would provide one for the raingarden and the swale. The Commission asked that the applicant mark the raingarden, trees to be removed and/or grinded and to tie ribbons around trees that are to be removed.

Application 19-44 Adelio Zaros Jr-Permit approval for in ground pool, propane tank and to repave driveway within a regulated area at 15 Old Teller Road. Adelio Zaros Jr & Daniella Zaros were present. The IWWC Co-Agent said that this application started as a violation and that she has been working with the applicant on improvements they have done already and future plans. Future improvements are in ground pool with no patio. She stated for the record that if a patio is constructed a storm water management plan may be required and an additional wetland permit. She asked the applicant where they think the pool will be going. Mr. Zaros said they prefer to install the pool close to the deck. The applicant also confirmed that the driveway to be paved with be existing size. They mentioned they would like to add 2 columns to the end of the driveway. The Agent said if the footprint of the existing is the same with columns it would not impact application. The Commission asked if the wetlands are flagged now. The applicant said it is. The Commission expressed concern about the upper right corner where the walkway around the pool is. It is right up against the limit of disturbance and the concern is being to construct that without going into the limit of disturbance and asked that the pool be moved. The Commission stated for the walk that the proposed pool be staked out at all 4 corners and a stake where the proposed propane tank will be. The Commission asked how deep the pool will be and what type of material will be used. Mr. Zaros said about 7 or 8 feet and it will be fiberglass with fresh water. No trees will be removed.

NEW BUSINESS CLOSED at 8:19 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS OPENED at 8:19 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Application 19-33

Diane Rubinstein

Permit approval for previously cleaned out dead & fallen trees and brush within a regulated area at 122 Old Dike Road.

MOTION (Deecken) Seconded (MacKeil) to APPROVE

MOTION (Deecken) to AMEND the motion to include the following conditions:

IWWC General Conditions Section I 1.1 through 1.10

IWWC Site Specific Conditions Section II 2.1, 2.9 and IWWC Section III Additional Condition:

3.1 Fifteen (15) shrubs to be planted in accordance with the planting plan and under the guidance of the Town Engineer and/or his Agent; 2-5 gallon in size. All plantings to be completed by November 30, 2019.

VOTE to APPROVE as amended CARRIED unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS CLOSED at 8:27 p.m.

MINUTES

By unanimous consent the Commission VOTED to ACCEPT the June 4, 2019 and July 9, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted.

SCHEDULE FIELD INSPECTION(S)

Wednesday, September 18, 2019 leaving Town Hall at 3:00 p.m.

Application 19-40	Elizabeth Gisolfi	2 Highfield Drive
Application 19-41	Michael Fleahman	22 Camelot Drive
Application 19-44	Adelio Zaros Jr	15 Old Teller Road

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on Violation – 40 Lindberg Drive – Resident requested extension. Commission granted a 45 day extension.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman advised the Commission that an email was sent from Bob & Sarah Lally in regards to Morefield Farms which is not before the Commission so will not be addressed.

Attorney Cordone addressed the Commission and briefly went over Best Practices.

By unanimous consent the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Lombardo
Clerk