

Town of East Haven, CT
Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission
East Haven Community Center
Taylor Ave.
Minutes
September 11, 2019

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jerry Jaffe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of 9-11.

3. Roll Call

Jerry Jaffe-present
Nicole Nastri-present
Ric Raffone-present
Robert Cubellotti-present

Also in attendance was Matt Gallagher and Town Engineer, Kevin White.

4. Approval of Minutes from June 12, August 14 and September 5 (Special Meeting), 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Raffone to approve the minutes from June 12th. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Cubellotti. All were in favor. It was noted that the August 14th meeting had notes not minutes, so there was nothing to be approved. A motion was made by Mr. Cubellotti to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2019 special meeting. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Raffone. All were in favor.

5. Public Comment- Nikki Whitehead respectfully requested that she be allowed to hold her comment until after item 6A, so she felt her comments may be moot based on the information that would come from the report. The commission allowed that request.

6. New Business

A. Report/Discussion on Maple Street tree removal.

Mr. White noted that he had been by today and there had been some more work done on property on the Farm River upstream on the North High Street side. It was noted that this work had been done by the

homeowner and not the Town. Mr. White noted that he would check on the situation again and make some requests of homeowner.

7. Old Business-

A. Letis/Grannis Subdivision

Mr. Jaffe asked for an update. Mr. White noted that this was never an issue with IWWC. It had been approved by the Town and they waived the sidewalk requirements.

B. Thompson Street/Foxon Hill Road Subdivision Engineering update.

No update

C. 197 Borrelli Road Engineering update.

Mr. Jaffe asked for an update on this subdivision. Mr. White noted that this project had been approved by the Town and over the course of approximately eight years they have been filling in and will build when the fill reaches a certain level. Mr. Jaffe inquired about the flooding issues that were reported at the last regular meeting. Mr. White noted that a pipe had been crushed in the drainage easement and that the town will fix it when they have time.

D. Report on action taken during the IWWC meeting of 09/05/19.

Mr. Jaffe reported that over the past two years, there have been many stumbling blocks and hurdles that the commission has attempted to overcome to no avail. These inhibited our ability to act as an efficient and effective commission. In effect, neutralizing our ability to carry out our sworn mandate to protect the inland wetlands and watercourses of East Haven. Regretfully and by unanimous consent of all active commissioners, it was decided to seek outside intervention as a remedy and notify those town personnel and officials that we have attempted to work with about our intentions. Accordingly, letters were sent to each individual. Since this action was only decided upon last week during a special meeting, letters were just sent out. Because of the sensitivity of this personnel matter, at this point we are withholding names and positions.

8. Enforcement-

A. Diamond Marine- Motion for Cease & Desist Order on Phase 2.

Mr. Jaffe noted that this has been an ongoing issue for the commission. Mr. White noted that the work in the front of the property had been approved by the Town and did not encroach on the wetlands. Ms. Donna Perrone noted that she had heard that work was being done on nights and weekends and asked if the property was being monitored. Mr. White stated yes, he was monitoring the situation during the day. Mr. Cubellotti explained the history of the situation, which has been lagging on for about 2 years, and that the commission had asked for fines to be levied and to date those fines have not been levied. Mr. Stephen Roberts thanked the commission for taking their responsibilities seriously and for sending out the letters that they did. Ms. Donna Ricco stated it appears there is stalling, making your efforts futile. Ms. Jean Edwards-Chieppo said it seems like there are people more interested in development and personal benefit and that they have no regard for wetlands or green space. Economic development and IWWC can work together but it seems to be very off balance. Ms. Nikki Whitehead noted she felt that these situations were only going to get bigger with some of the upcoming development.

B. North Frontage Road: Update

Mr. White noted that this work had stopped.

9. Other business - None

10. Discussion- None

11. Communications/correspondence- None

12. Comments from members- None

13. Executive Session-

A motion was made by Mr. Cubellotti to go into Executive Session to interview a potential commission candidate, Matt Gallagher. Mr. Mark Zaretsky, New Haven Register, questioned the Executive Session. It was noted that due to the sensitive personnel issue, that this be discussed in Executive session. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Nastri. All were in favor.

The commission entered into executive session at 7:46 with the commission members, Matt Gallagher and Kristen Vineyard, Clerk.

Regular Session resumed at 7:59.

A motion was made by Mr. Cubellotti to recommend Matt Gallagher to the Mayor's office for possible appointment to the commission. Mr. Gallagher has an extensive background in forestry and environmental science and would make a welcome addition to the commission. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Raffone. All were in favor.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Raffone at 8:02 to adjourn. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Cubellotti. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Vineyard, Clerk