

**The Roxbury Inland Wetlands Commission
Roxbury, Connecticut**

**MINUTES
Regular Meeting
May 26, 2009**

Members Present: Mr. Dirienzo, Mr. Ketchum, Mr. Horrigan and Ms. O’Conner
Alternates Present: Mr. Smoliga, Ms. Fitch
Others Present: Mr. Kellerman, Mr. DiVesta, Mr. Steinman, Attorney Tracy, Julie Steers

Mr. Dirienzo called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

SEATING OF MEMBERS

Chairman Dirienzo seated members Ketchum, Horrigan, O’Conner, Dirienzo and Fitch for Napier.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The approval of minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 28, 2009

Ms. O’Conner suggested that on page 1 under Mostowitz the word wetland should be deleted from the second sentence. Mr. Horrigan clarified that on page 3, third sentence, he said an engineer can design a reinforced concrete slab. Ms. Fitch suggested clarifying that the WEO is Mary Barton on page 2.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the April 28, 2009 Regular Meeting as amended. By Mr. Horrigan, seconded by Ms. O’Conner and passed 3-0. Ketchum and Fitch abstained.

WEO REPORT

The Commission reviewed the WEO report on eight sites. Mr. Dirienzo commented on the thoroughness of the report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Dirienzo reminded the Commission that the BOE candidates would be debating tomorrow night. Additionally, the school budget vote will be tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS

Belbusti/35 South Street – Aquatic Pesticide Application

Mr. Dirienzo noted that they would be sending out the standard letter regarding alternatives to aquatic pesticide applications.

NEW BUSINESS

Roxbury Land Trust (Tierney Preserve) – Install log structure along Jack’s Brook

Julie Steers explained that this is a Trout Unlimited project, which is being funded through a grant. Ms. Steers displayed photos showing the proposal to anchor logjams along the bank to prevent erosion. She explained the design to cable together and anchor the logs. She noted that

they worked with the DEP to develop the plan. Donald Meisler with the DEP has offered to meet with Commission members to do the site walk.

Volunteers will assist in the installation; however, they will have some contracted work to move the logs, which will be taken from site. She noted that they will be working in the brook.

Mr. Dirienzo questioned why they would not just let nature have its way with the brook. Ms. Steers explained that the erosion is detrimental to the trout habitat. Additionally, this project will allow them to keep the field open.

Mr. Smoliga and Ms. Fitch agreed to do the site walk. Mr. Dirienzo agreed to contact Mary Barton and Sean Hayden to view the site as well.

Steinman/32 River Road – Driveway, deck, shed and stonewall

Gary Steinman presented a plan created by Brian Neff dated April 18, 2009. Mr. Steinman explained that the current backyard grade causes water to collect in the basement. The roof drains currently drain to the middle of the lawn. He explained they proposed to regrade and direct eight down spouts to a riprap splash pad. Mr. Dirienzo questioned why they are not using infiltrators. Mr. Steinman explained that the objective is to improve the current conditions by doing these maintenance activities.

Mr. Steinman explained that there is currently a town-installed drywell in the road. They propose to crown the driveway to direct water to the drywell and to the grass on the other side when they pave. He noted that the organic farm across the street would object to a culvert system.

Mr. Steinman reviewed the plan to dig a trench to install electric lights and replace walkway. The current shed will be replaced and moved further from the wetlands. He noted that the wetlands are entirely on the other side of the existing wall.

Mr. Horrigan and Ms. O'Conner agreed call Mr. Steinman prior to viewing site.

High Meadow Riding Club (the Meadow) – Horse exercise ring

Mr. Dirienzo explained that the WEO, Mary Barton, inspected the site and felt the application should be reviewed by the Commission.

Attorney William Tracy noted that the soil scientist report has been submitted. He explained that the material from excavation is bermed around the ring and landscaped. The berm is 2-3 feet tall and the center of ring is at existing ground level. The drainage flows in an easterly direction; whereas, the wetlands are westerly. The soil is well drained.

Mr. Dirienzo questioned whether the statute regarding notice if there is an easement on the property applies in this situation. Attorney Tracy explained that there is not an easement on the property. The property has a use restriction. He advised that this statute did not apply. Additionally, he noted that the proposal was submitted for nonregulated activity review.

Attorney Tracy confirmed that the previously approved barn has not been built and that they will return to the Commission for this project because the permit has expired.

The Commission unanimously agreed that this is a nonregulated activity.

Town of Roxbury/Pickett Road – Maintenance on cross culvert

Doug DiVesta, Professional Engineer, distributed a sketch of area of the proposed activity. He explained that the sinkhole has been patched and there is some sinking in the area. He noted that the sinkhole was caused by the failure of the corrugated metal pipe installed in the late 1970s.

Mr. DiVesta explained that he researched several options for the repair of the site. Options included bottomless culvert, arch pipes, box culvert, corrugated metal pipes, corrugated plastic pipes, and liner repair. He noted that the best options for the wetlands were the most expensive for the Town. Mr. DiVesta reported that they would like to propose to replace the pipes with corrugated plastic pipe, which is the least costly option.

The repair would require that the road is excavated to the pipes, which would be replaced one at a time. They would use sand bags, hay bales and silt fence for erosion control.

The Commission noted that it is unfortunate that they could not take this opportunity to mitigate something that was done in the 1970s before they were aware of migrations. However, the Commission agreed that after this many years the habitats are separated.

MOTION: To approve the application of the Town of Roxbury/Pickett Road – Maintenance on cross culvert to replace the pipes with plastic corrugated pipe as a regulated activity. The fee will be waived for the Town. By Ms. O’Conner, seconded by Mr. Horrigan and passed 5-0.

Mr. Dirienzo agreed to have Washington notified of this maintenance activity because it is within 500 feet of the Town of Washington.

COMPLAINTS/ENFORCEMENT

Adams/88 Old Roxbury Rd. – Complaint regarding beaver dams (see letter)

Mr. Dirienzo reported that a letter was received from The Adams Office LLC dated May 22, 2009 explaining that the Estate Manager responded to Jim Pierpont with regard to the first letter they received from Mr. Dirienzo. The letter clarified that they were not responsible for removing the beaver dams nor were they aware of anyone performing such an activity. Mr. Dirienzo noted that he also spoke with the Estate Manager on the telephone regarding this matter.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM. By Mr. Dirienzo, seconded by Ms. O’Conner and passed 5-0.

By: _____
Tai Kern, Clerk

cc: B. Henry, R. Lowe, R. Dirienzo, P. Hurlbut, R. Falconer, J. Pierpont, R. Munson, G. McTaggart and H. Rawson.

Minutes are filed subject to approval by the Roxbury Inland Wetlands Commission.