



City of Ansonia
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

February 6, 2014

Regular Meeting

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Elizabeth S. Lynch
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Present: Tim Holman, Chairman
Michael Bettini
Kevin Cegelka
Jeff Gould
John Jones
David Madar

Others Present: Fred D'Amico, City Engineer
Dave Blackwell – arrived 7:10 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Inland Wetlands Commission was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Tim Holman,

Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was done at the Organizational Meeting.

There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cegelka made a motion to accept with any corrections and place on file the minutes of the December 5, 2013 Regular Meeting. Mr. Madar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Approval of Bills

There were no bills.

Correspondence

Mr. Bettini made a motion to accept all of the correspondence received, dispense with the reading, and place them on file. If a member requests one read or acted upon the correspondence will be brought up individually. Mr. Cegelka seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Public Session

Chairman Holman asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Commission. He asked three (3) times. There was no one.

Mr. Madar made a motion to close the public session. Mr. Jones seconded. All in favor, so carried.

IWC Permit Fees/Bonds

Mr. Cegelka made a motion to table item #7 on the agenda. Mr. Madar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Update IWC Regulations

Mr. Cegelka made a motion to table item #8 on the agenda. Mr. Jones seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Violations

Chairman Holman said that Mr. Blackwell is not here yet. He has office hours this evening.

Chairman Holman asked Mr. D'Amico if there are any violations that he is aware of.

Mr. D'Amico said there are no new violations that he is aware of.

Mr. Cegelka made a motion to move this item to the end of the meeting to give Mr. Blackwell a chance to come upstairs after his office hours. Mr. Madar seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Any other business to come before the Commission

Emmett O'Brien Technical School – Walkway/Trail

Mr. Michael Schryver, PWD and Lorie Lebouthillier, Principal of Emmett O'Brien Tech. School were present.

Mr. Schryver said Emmett O'Brien Technical School is in the process of renovating their facility. There will be more kids traveling to their Sports Complex from the school and they would have to walk on the road which is a safety issue and a liability. The State owns the property on Prindle Avenue that is adjacent to the Emmett O'Brien Complex. The students walk through this area now to get to the field.

Mr. Schryver said they have walked the site and it has a wetland in there. They are proposing a bridge or maybe two bridges with trails to get from Prindle Avenue to the Emmett O'Brien Sports Complex. He said this works for the City of Ansonia, we have a lot of kids there and it is an easy access to the track and soccer fields.

Chairman Holman said he walked the site with Mr. Schryver and it is no different than the Ansonia High School bridge that was built. He asked how they planned to clear the brush and briar bushes in there.

Mr. Schryver said they will clear some of the briars and add some stone dust. He explained the area using the map and showing the members where the bridge and trails would be located.

Mr. Bettini said he hasn't walked the property. He asked if they were going to clear cut the area.

Mr. Schryver said no, just the brush and briars will come out. He said there is a lot of brush and briar in there.

Chairman Holman said it is no different than the bridge on the Ansonia High School property. They will not disturb the wetlands but there is a lot of briar patches.

Mr. Cegelka said when you walk into the property to the right a double bridge is better and more direct.

Mr. Gould asked if this would affect the two houses on Doyle Drive and Prindle Avenue that had a problem with water and flooding from this area. He said there was a backup of the overflow pipe and his concern is if the work in the wetland will cause any problems with those two homes.

Mr. D'Amico said there was no water in it the other day and it will not cause any back up with the downstream property. The bridge will be exactly like the bridge at the High School.

Mr. Bettini asked if there were any vernal pools in there on the property.

Chairman Holman said no, we walked it and the plan is for a straight bridge over the wetland area.

Mr. Madar asked if the work will be done by hand.

Mr. Schryver said they may have to bring in a couple of yards of material and a skid loader in the beginning – in the area off Prindle Avenue about 20 feet off the road.

Lorie Lebouthillier, Principal of Emmett O'Brien Tech. School was present.

Ms. Lebouthillier said they will be working with a construction company and if the project is approved they will bring it forth with the construction company on how they will build the bridge.

Chairman Holman said they are not to disturb any of the wetlands. He asked how they plan to remove the briar patches.

Ms. Lebouthillier said this was not a possibility before and she has to check with the contractor on the work process.

Chairman Holman said that a representative from the construction company should be at the next meeting of the Inland Wetlands Commission to explain what the building process will be and how they plan to remove the brush and briar patches. He said if IWC approves this tonight they can do whatever they want and we don't know what they plan to do in the wetland. He asked Ms. Lebouthillier to have the contractor come to the next meeting of the commission.

Chairman Holman said what is being disturbed in the wetland? The Commission has a map and it is not telling us how and what they are going to do in the wetland.

Mr. Madar asked if they are going to hand dig for the 8x8 posts.

Ms. Lebouthillier said my students could do the hand work. We can discuss this with the students and the shops to see what can be done by them.

Chairman Holman said you want to build a bridge and not disturb the wetlands, there is a lot of briar patches how are you going to remove them. Will you do it with the construction company that has machines or will you pull them out hand by hand.

Mr. D'Amico said Ansonia High School had a small machine in there and they built the bridge by hand. They will be cutting top soil off and they are not going to re-grade because there is a pathway there already. There are some branches, etc. that were taken down and thrown off to the side they will be removed. They will not need a lot of equipment in there.

Chairman Holman said there should be a pre-construction conference prior to doing the work which should include, Mr. D'Amico, Mr. Schryver, Emmett O'Brien representative, construction company representatives and any commissioners who want to attend.

Mr. Madar said he would like to walk the site because he hasn't seen it.

Mr. Gould suggested the commission set up a site walk with the commission and the construction company.

Ms. Lebouthillier said she has to discuss this with the school officials as to whether the school will be doing the work or a construction company.

Chairman Holman said the Commission doesn't need the construction company there, IWC knows what has to be done.

Mr. Schryver suggested the commission wait until the snow melts to hold the site inspection.

Mr. Bettini asked if the commission needs to get an extension of time on the application.

Chairman Holman said the Commission has 65 days to act.

Mr. Madar made a motion to hold the site inspection on Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Cegelka seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There was discussion on the contractors doing the work in the wetlands.

Mr. Gould said he is concerned with the flooding issues that IWC had with the residents along Prindle Avenue.

Mr. Cegelka said that this area is too far away to cause any problems.

Chairman Holman said that they brought maps and there is nothing concrete on what they want to do on the site.

Mr. Madar asked if they had to do the work by hand.

Mr. Gould said the commission should walk the site and what's in there.

Chairman Holman said there are two different plans submitted and they did not say which one they are going to follow.

Mr. Gould said the commission will walk the site and see where the wetlands are located.

Violations

Chairman Holman introduced David Blackwell – the new Zoning Enforcement Officer. He asked him if there were any violations.

Mr. Blackwell said no.

Executive Session

Mr. Cegelka made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. The commission members were invited to remain, all others left the meeting at this time. Mr. Gould seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Bettini made a motion to go back into Regular Session at 7:44 p.m. There were no votes or decisions made during the Executive Session. Mr. Gould seconded. All in favor.

Chairman Holman asked Mr. D’Amico if he prepared the map for the Emmett O’Brien project.

Mr. D’Amico said yes, basically he did it for the City of Ansonia. Ansonia did the engineering for the project and Emmett O’Brien is doing the construction.

The Commissioners were confused as to why Ansonia did the engineering when this is a State of Conn. Project. Emmett O’Brien is owned and operated by the State of Conn. There was discussion that this is a safety issue because they do not want to have students walk along the road to the Sports Complex – it is not only Emmett O’Brien students but Ansonia students too. They walk through this passway and along the road also.

Chairman Holman said when there was a problem with those houses, Emmett O’Brien did not want to know anything about it and now there may be work in the wetlands. He said he is confused as to why the City Engineer is involved with this State project. He said it is a conflict of interest.

Mr. D’Amico said he will not review it.

Mr. Bettini said ultimately we will need an extension of time because we need an outside engineer to review the plans.

Mr. Jones said he is not sure who is building it – the students or a contractor. If there is a contractor building it they would have their own engineer.

They discussed the liability if students build the project.

Mr. D’Amico said the students do a good job.

Mr. Bettini said Emmett O’Brien will agree to this process – it seems odd Emmett O’Brien will say Ansonia Engineer do the engineering. Do they have the proper permission to do this.

Chairman Holman said do it the right way so there is no liability. We don't know who is doing the work – the students or a contractor.

Mr. Madar said this is probably a site project from the work being done at the facility. We have to ask them what is being done and who is doing the work.

Chairman Holman said to put them on the agenda for next month and they can come to the meeting with their contractor and their engineer. He said to send them a letter advising them of the next meeting and to attend with their contractor and their State of CT engineer and to copy Mayor Cassetti. He asked Mr. D'Amico if he was paid for his work.

Mr. D'Amico said by the City of Ansonia not Emmett O'Brien. He said he was asked by Mr. Schryver to do this project.

Mr. Gould said it is a great idea and it is in the best interest for the students but we have to do it the right way and do a site walk and see what is there.

Mr. Madar made a motion to send a letter to Emmett O'Brien asking them to attend the next IWC meeting with a State of CT engineer and their contractor to explain the project. Mr. Jones seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Cegelka made a motion to send a letter to Mayor Cassetti from the Inland Wetland Commission members requesting that Attorney Thomas Welch continue the work that he has begun on the IWC Regulations and Fee Structure. Copy Board of Aldermen and Corp. Counsel. Mr. Jones seconded. All in favor, with one (1) abstention – Michael Bettini abstained. The motion carried.

March 2014 Meeting:

The March meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Bettini made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Cegelka seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary