

TOWN OF ESSEX
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Executive Board
Fred Szufnarowski Chairman
Daniel Lapman, Vice Chair

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Regular Members

Jim Leo
Steve Knauth
Jeffrey Lovelace, Conservation Liaison
Jim Hill, Zoning Liaison
Vacancy, Planning Liaison

Alternate Members

Bill Cook
Andre Roussel

Unapproved

Minutes - Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 22, 2017

1. Call to Order and Seating of Members

A Special Meeting of the Essex IWWC was conducted on February 22, 2017 in Conference Room A, of the Essex Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Attending Members:

Fred Szufnarowski
Dan Lapman
Jim Hill
Jim Leo
Andre Roussel, Alternate
Bill Cook, Alternate seated

Absent Members:

Steve Knauth
Jeff Lovelace

Staff:

Stella Beaudoin, Recording Clerk
Joseph Budrow, Wetlands Enforcement Agent

F. Szufnarowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION made by J Hill to seat B Cook; **SECONDED** by D Lapman; **Voting In Favor:** D. Lapman, F. Szufnarowski, J Hill, J Leo; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

MOTION made by J Leo to seat A Roussel; **SECONDED** by J Hill; **Voting In Favor:** D. Lapman, F. Szufnarowski, J Hill, J Leo, B Cook; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Seated for the meeting were F Szufnarowski, D Lapman, J Hill, J Leo A. Roussel, and B. Cook.

2. Receipt of New Application

- **Application #17-3 Essex Parks and Recreation Department**, A request for a Wetlands Permit to allow the installation of a beaver control device within Wollock's Pond in Viney Hill Brook Park.

Robert Russo, Director of the Essex Park and Recreation Commission and certified soil scientist presented on behalf of this proposal. R Russo stated that a family of beavers have dammed up the outlets and the water level has risen significantly in Wollock's pond which is located within the Viney Hill Brook Preserve. The pond, at its deepest point is 10-11 feet and it is quite shallow on the swimming end. A Park and Rec Department Assistant and the Essex Public Works Department have periodically cleaned it out to maintain the water level from saturating the berm.

R Russo stated that Beaver Solutions, LLC will install a device that lowers the water level and they will place a pipe into the outlet culvert of the pond, running along the bottom of the pond, and then protruding out of the pond at mid-point. The pipe that extends along the bottom of the pond is held in place by concrete blocks and there will be no soil or fill placed in the pond. The PVC pipe is enclosed by a coated fencing which prohibits the beavers cannot access the pipe.

R Russo stated that the work will be done in April and that this device does require some periodic maintenance. The Conservation Commission has retained Beaver Solutions, LLC to install and maintain the same device at another pond within Viney Hill Brook Preserve. The Park and Rec Commission will enter into a maintenance agreement with Beaver Solutions for the care and keeping of the pipe that is to be installed at Wollock's pond.

R Russo stated that this application includes the installation of the upstream fencing in the pond, however at this time his proposal does not propose the inclusion of fencing on the down-stream side. R Russo stated that at the Commission's request, he will include in his application, the downstream fencing to be installed as necessary and that he will consult with the Wetlands Enforcement Officer regarding the same.

MOTION by B Cook to find that **Application #17-3** is substantially complete for **Essex Park and Recreation Department**, proposing the installation of a beaver control device within **Wollock's Pond in Viney Hill Brook Park** and the applicant is to meet the following condition in time for the scheduled March 14, 2017 IWWC meeting: **As stated in Beaver Solutions Installation Procedures for a Culvert Protective Fence and Pipe Flow Device; #9; "Occasionally a small fence is installed across the outlet end of the culvert to prevent beavers accessing the culvert from the downstream side";** **MOTION** seconded by D. Lapman; **Voting In Favor:** D. Lapman, F. Szufnarowski, J Hill, J Leo, A Roussel, B Cook; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Based on the information presented in this application and the accompanying documents, and on the testimony given at this meeting, the Commission finds that the proposed activity is a regulated activity not involving significant impact or major effect upon the inlands wetlands or watercourse which occur on the property, as defined in Section 2.2, and that few or no reasonable or prudent alternatives exist;

MOTION by D Lapman to schedule **Application #17-3** on behalf of **Essex Park and Recreation Department**, property located **Wollock's Pond in Viney Hill Brook Park**, for the March 14, 2017 regular meeting; **MOTION** seconded by J Leo; **Voting In Favor:** D. Lapman, F. Szufnarowski, J Hill, J Leo, A Roussel, B Cook; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

- **Application #17-4, Town of Essex**, A request to allow the removal and replacement of the Walnut Street bridge that spans the Falls River.

Keegan Elder, WMC Consulting Engineers presented on behalf of this proposal. K Elder stated that the Town of Essex retained WMC Consulting design firm to replace the existing culvert that is purported to be in critical condition. The applicant proposes to remove the four existing corrugated metal culverts and replace with a single span bridge. K Elder stated that some of the asphalt will be replaced and the road will be paved. Construction is scheduled to begin June 7, 2017 and the final design plans are to be delivered to the State by March 22, 2017. The target for completion of this project is to have the bridge in service by between June and the end of November 2017 for traffic and complete construction in spring.

K Elder stated that he met with a representative from the State of Connecticut DEEP Fisheries Unit who was in favor of this design. The proposed open-bottom structure will allow passage for the fish. The DEEP recommended placement of boulder clusters up and down stream for fish habitat. For construction of this bridge will be done in 2 phases so as to keep the stream flowing, by removing two culverts at a time. The road will be closed to traffic during construction and K Elder stated that he will add stockpile areas in the work zone on a new plan. Completion of this project is anticipated to occur within the 2017 calendar year. K Elder stated that the proposed bridge has a greater hydraulic capacity than the existing bridge. K Elder stated that there will be sufficient capacity in the 2 operational culverts, which will be maintained during construction with a 2-year storm capacity.

D Lampan advised the applicant that of the October 15th cut off to conduct work within the wetlands.

K. Elder stated that he will provide a written request at the next regularly scheduled IWWC seeking permission to work beyond October 15th cut off, along with a proposal outlining those protective measures he will take during the winter months.

D Lapman suggested a site walk.

MOTION by D Lapman to find that **Application #17-4** is substantially complete for **Town of Essex and WMC Consulting Engineers**, proposing the removal and replacement of the **Walnut Street bridge** that spans the Falls River, with the **following conditions: 1) Add a plan that reflects location of stockpile areas; 2) Provide a memo requesting work to go beyond October 15th**; **MOTION** seconded by J Leo; **Voting In Favor:** D. Lapman, F. Szufnarowski, A Roussel, j Leo, J Hill, B Cook; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Based on the information presented in this application and the accompanying documents, and on the testimony given at this meeting, the Commission finds that the proposed activity is a regulated activity not involving significant impact or major effect upon the inlands wetlands or watercourse which occur on the property, as defined in Section 2.2, and that few or no reasonable or prudent alternatives exist; **MOTION** by A Roussel to schedule **Application #17-4** on behalf of **the Town of Essex and WMC**

Consulting Engineers, property located **Walnut Street Bridge**, for the March 14, 2017 regular meeting; **MOTION** seconded by J Hill; **Voting In Favor:** D. Lapman, F. Szufnarowski, A Roussel, B Cook, J Leo, J Hill; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Members will meet onsite and conduct a site walk on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 8:00 am.

Adjournment

MOTION made by D. Lapman to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled IWWC meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at the Essex Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room A, 29 West Avenue; **MOTION SECONDED** by J Hill; **Voting In Favor:** D. Lapman, F. Szufnarowski, A Roussel, J Hill, J Leo, B Cook; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary