

TOWN OF ESSEX  
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

**Executive Board**  
*Daniel Lapman, Chairman*  
*Fred Szufnarowski, 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 - Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 13, 2016**

**Call to Order and Seating of Members**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex IWWC was conducted on September 13, 2016 in Conference Room A, of the Essex Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

**Attending Members:**

Fred Szufnarowski  
Jim Leo  
Jim Hill  
Bill Cook  
Andre Roussel  
J. Lovelace joined the meeting at 7:05pm

**Absent Members:**

Dan Lapman  
Steve Knauth

**Staff:**

Stella Beaudoin, Recording Clerk

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

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

Seated for the meeting were F. Szufnarowski, J. Hill, J. Leo, B. Cook, A. Roussel. J. Lovelace joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Regular Meeting, August 9, 2016
- Site walk at 43 Main Street, IVTN, August 16, 2016

**MOTION** made by J. Leo to approve the August 9, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes with following amendment; Page 4. Mid page, “F. Szufnarowski stated that the review area has changed which *needs* to be taken in to consideration.”; **SECONDED** by J. Hill; **Voting In Favor** F. Szufnarowski, B. Cook, J. Leo, J. Hill, A. Roussel; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

**MOTION** made by J. Leo to approve the August 16, 2016 Site Walk Minutes for property situated at 43 Main Street, Ivoryton as presented; **SECONDED** by J. Hill; **Voting In Favor**, F. Szufnarowski, B. Cook, J. Leo, J. Hill, A. Roussel; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** J Lovelace; **Approved:** 5/0/1.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**Application No. 16-12 – Robert Fitzgerald and Britt Nystrom, 43 Main Street, IVTN** - A request to allow improvements to existing drainage by abandoning a pond and filling. Also, to allow existing drainage to directly flow to Falls River.

This is an application to allow the redesign of a drainage system that drains from the area of Main Street to a grass swale that leads to a pipe that enters the pond. There is also a pipe leads from the pond to another grass swale on a neighboring property. The plan is to directly connect the two grass swales with a 24” HDPE pipe as seen on a revised site plan. The final stage of the proposal is to fill in the pond. A proposal was submitted by Kelly Starr of the CT River Coastal Conservation District for possible conditions to the permit.

This proposal was continued from the August 9, 2016 IWWC meeting, pending the August 16<sup>th</sup> site walk inspection. During the site walk on August 16<sup>th</sup>, Town Engineer Robert Doane suggested a drainage installation which differed from the plan previously submitted with the application. A revised site plan was filed in the Land Use office. R. Doane’s recommendations included the installation of a single, direct 24” drain pipe to replace the existing design.

R. Fitzgerald presented on behalf of this proposal. R. Fitzgerald stated that he is seeking approval of his revised proposal based on the site walk recommendations, the revised site plan and the accompanying documents. R. Fitzgerald commented on a September 1, 2016 letter from Kelly Starr, Natural Resource Specialist, CT River Coastal Conservation District, Inc., and he noted that he wishes to close the pond, which would eliminate the problem.

K. Starr recommends on site remediation to include the installation of native plants in the area, and a retention berm on the outlet of the pipe downstream of the pond.

R. Fitzgerald stated that he will follow the recommendation made by R. Doane, Town Engineer for the installation of a single, direct 24” drain pipe to replace the existing design.

F Szufnarowski stated that in her September 1, 2016 letter, K. Starr recommended the installation of a rain garden.

R. Fitzgerald stated that the rain garden will overflow at some point which could potentially create a long term maintenance issue.

G. Washburn, 8 Brackett Lane, read his letter into the record stating no opposition to installation of any drainage improvement to the applicant’s property.

**MOTION** made by J. Leo to approve a Permit for **Application No. 16-12 – Robert Fitzgerald and Britt Nystrom, 43 Main Street, Ivoryton, Assessor’s Map 41, Lot 14**; This is a request to allow improvements to existing drainage by abandoning a pond and filling. Also, to allow existing drainage to directly flow to Falls River. Based on the testimony given at this meeting, and the accompanying documents and the site inspection, the Commission finds that the proposed activity is a regulated activity not involving any significant or major effect upon the inland wetlands or watercourse which occur on the property as defined in Section 2.2 of the regulations and that no reasonable or prudent alternative exists to the proposed plans. The Commission members feel that the proposed activities are well suited to the area.

The Commission makes a Summary Ruling and grants a permit and permission for the applicant to proceed with proposed activity as stated on said application and as shown on plans accompanying the application, subject to the following conditions:

- a. In accordance with the Commission’s Regulations, the activity pursuant to said permit shall be initiated within five years of the date of publication and shall be completed within one year of the date of initiation and will occur between March 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> of the year of initiation.
- b. Should the applicant determine that the permitted activity will not be completed between March 14<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> of the year of initiation, the applicant agrees to appear before the Commission and present a plan for the stabilization of the site during the non-permitted months.
- c. The applicant agrees to follow the advice and direction of the Town of Essex Enforcement Officer with regard to any field changes he deems necessary or may require for the protection of the inland wetlands and water course during the process.
- d. The Commission, through its Enforcement Officer, shall be notified in writing upon the initiation of the authorized activity and again upon completion of these activities.

**MOTION SECONDED** by B. Cook; **Voting In Favor** F. Szufnarowski, B. Cook, J. Leo, J. Hill, A. Roussel; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** J. Lovelace; **Approved:** 5/0/1.

**Application No. 16-14 – Adam Calkins, 31 Grove Street** – A request to allow a channelization of an existing intermittent watercourse.

This is a proposal in which the applicant is requesting to channelize the stream, as depicted on the site plan accompanying the application.

R. Doane met with the applicant on site and made the following recommendations: This proposal is to imitate the channelization done by the neighbor to the south as seen in pictures attached to the file; and that no changes be made to the bottom of the natural stream. R. Doane indicated that there will be no need for erosion and sedimentation measures.

A Calkins presented on behalf of this proposal and stated that through the center of the backyard is a ditch that goes under the road and down to the river. The ditch is collapsing and he would like to sure up the side of the ditch. A Calkins referenced the Giroux Landscaping drainage plan and he noted that Giroux Landscaping will bring in rocks which will be tucked into the edges, and then they will backfill the lawn and install perennial beds. There is a railroad tie bridge sitting on rocks which will be removed and large rocks will be installed.

Per the Giroux Landscaping proposal, the drainage across the back of the property on Grove Street will be maintained at the same depth and width. A small amount of dirt will be pulled from the sides, but then smaller rocks will replace the dirt. The bottom of the drainage path will be left alone for property drainage.

J. Leo stated that there was a good deal of water that ran through the creek on the property.

A. Calkins stated that he only saw water when it had been raining.

It was noted that the work proposed in this application is not considered to be detrimental to the stream.

**MOTION** made J. Leo to approve a Permit for **Application No. 16-14 – Adam Calkins, 31 Grove Street, Essex, Assessor’s Map 27, Lot 57, VR Zone**; This is a request to allow a channelization of an existing intermittent watercourse. Based on the testimony given at this meeting, and the accompanying documents, the Commission finds that the proposed activity is a regulated activity not involving any significant or major effect upon the inland wetlands or watercourse which occur on the property as defined in Section 2.2 of the regulations and that no reasonable or prudent alternative exists to the proposed plans. The Commission members feel that the proposed activities are well suited to the area.

The Commission makes a Summary Ruling and grants a permit and permission for the applicant to proceed with proposed activity as stated on said application and as shown on plans accompanying the application, subject to the following conditions:

- a. In accordance with the Commission’s Regulations, the activity pursuant to said permit shall be initiated within five years of the date of publication and shall be completed within one year of the date of initiation and will occur between March 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> of the year of initiation.
- b. Should the applicant determine that the permitted activity will not be completed between March 14<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> of the year of initiation, the applicant agrees to appear before the Commission and present a plan for the stabilization of the site during the non-permitted months.
- c. The applicant agrees to follow the advice and direction of the Town of Essex Enforcement Officer with regard to any field changes he deems necessary or may require for the protection of the inland wetlands and water course during the process.
- d. The Commission, through its Enforcement Officer, shall be notified in writing upon the initiation of the authorized activity and again upon completion of these activities.

**MOTION SECONDED** by J. Hill; **Voting In Favor:** J. Hill, J. Leo, B. Cook, A. Roussel, F. Szufnarowski, J. Lovelace; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

**Other Business:**

Commissioners briefly discussed criteria for site walk visits. F. Szufnarowski stated that he will request at the October 2016 IWWC meeting for clarification on individual site visits, Remote observations and informal discussions, on the October Agenda.

**Correspondence and Invoices**

The Habitat Newsletter of the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc., Summer 2016.

There were no invoices.

- **Wetlands Agent Report - Joseph Budrow** – No report.
- **Chair Report – Daniel Lapman:** No report.
- **Planning Commission – Liaison Vacancy.** No report.
- **Conservation Commission – Jeffrey Lovelace, Liaison:** No report.
- **Zoning Commission – Jim Hill, Liaison** reported that there will be a joint meeting between the Zoning Commission, the Planning Commission and the Economic Development Commission which will occur at the Essex Town Hall on September 14, 2016 related to the Affordable Housing apartments.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by J. Lovelace to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled IWWC meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at the Essex Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room A, 29 West Avenue; **MOTION SECONDED** by J. Leo; **Voting In Favor** F. Szufnarowski, B. Cook, J. Leo, J. Hill, A. Roussel, J. Lovelace; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin  
Recording Secretary