THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT IWWA MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT

INLAND WETLAND & WATERCOURSES AGENCY

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 4, 2024

Chester Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Bob Blair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance included: Bob Blair, Sally Sanders, Bill Bernhart, Kim Senay, Michael Bellesiles, Randy Bernotas, IW Official, Clyde Hartson, Susanne Spellacy, Paul Just and Joe Wren.

MINUTES - 2/5/24

Bill Bernhart made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/5/24 meeting as amended. Sally Sanders seconded the motion. The motion passed with Sally Sanders abstaining from the vote.

Note: Page 1 – proper spelling “within” not “withing”.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - None.

APPLICATION #23-06 – Paul H. Just, Map 4 Lot 135, Old County Road, Chester, CT – Farm and Dwelling

Bob Blair reported that at a previous meeting, letters relative to the proposed project from the Haddam/Chester Land Trust and the Executor of the previous property owner were received and are in the file.

Mr. Just distributed updated plans/drawings to Agency members. To date, no comments/notes from Jacobson have been received relating to these updated plans.

The Sanitarian has rescinded the approval of the septic design plan, and a new approval will be required to allow IW to proceed. A copy of this rescinded approval was given to the applicant. The need for clarification on the appropriate distance for the installation of a septic system (from a watercourse or wetland boundary) was discussed.

Further discussion on the application was tabled until the septic design plan is approved by the Sanitarian and verification is received related to Jacobson’s review of the most up to date plans.

Randy will follow-up with the Health District/Sanitarian and Jacobson.

CONTINUE SHOW CAUSE HEARING – Chester Airport, 61 Winthrop Road – unpermitted activity within review area – No report. Still under DEEP review.

CHESTER AIRPORT, 61 Winthrop Road – unpermitted activity within review area – No report. Still under DEEP review.

213 MIDDLESEX AVENUE – unpermitted activity in inland wetlands and watercourses and upland review area, request to modify conditions of Cease & Desist Order

Randy provided the Wetland Restoration Document that states that all fill material excavated during the process shall be removed off site and if it is to be placed on the property, a plan, prepared by a PE, is required. To date, no such plan has been received in the Land Use office.

Note that the stockpile at the location does have erosion and sedimentation controls in place.

Discussion tabled.

190 WEST MAIN STREET - Clyde Hartson, 190 West Main St., Septic System repair within upland review area.

Bob Blair reported that Al Bisacky reviewed the site and confirmed that plantings required (from a prior permit) are in place and adequate.

Mr. Wren reported that the proposed plan includes erosion and sedimentation controls. The application also includes propane bottles and a generator to be placed on blocks.

As previously reported, it was suggested that the separate system that was used for the laundry be repurposed for the gutter downspouts. The existing septic tank will be crushed and filled with sand.

Sally Sanders made a motion to approve the 190 West Main Street Septic System Repair application as presented. Michael Bellesiles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The applicant will contact Randy prior to construction to confirm that erosion and sedimentation controls are in place.

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT

Randy reported:

* 26 Spring Street – work has begun, and the prior permit is still valid. Several easements are associated with the property.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Susanne Spellacy reported that she was interested in purchasing the Old County Road property but elected not to because the land could have no dwellings/septic system installed. At her request, Randy provided the letters received from the Haddam/Chester Land Trust and the Executor. Agency members directed Ms. Spellacy to direct any questions relative to building on the property to Planning and Zoning as the Agency may only discuss/act on wetland related matters.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – tabled until all Agency members are present.

CORRESPONDENCE - None.

RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS AFTER POSTING OF AGENDA – None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agency has requested that Public Works inform them of any drainage, bridge repair, etc. projects.

The Agency had a brief discussion on the complaint process (in writing vs. verbal, anonymous concerns vs. complaints, observations vs. complaints). The importance of Chairman Bisacky’s input was stressed. This item will be discussed further at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Sally Sanders made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Michael Bellesiles seconded the motion. the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski

Clerk