

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT IWWA MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY

Regular Meeting
Minutes
Monday, May 1, 2023
Chester Meeting House

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bisacky called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance included: Chairman Bisacky, Kem Senay, Bill Bernhart, Eric Davison, Michael Bellesiles, Randy Bernotas, IW Official, Bob Doane, Doane Engineering, and Attorney Ron Barba.

MINUTES – April 3, 2023 – tabled.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

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

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

CONTINUED SHOW CAUSE HEARING – 213 Middlesex Ave. – unpermitted activity in inland wetlands and watercourses and upland review areas

As previously discussed, a Cease & Desist Order was issued at 213 Middlesex Avenue due to unpermitted activity in inland wetlands and watercourses and upland review areas.

In response to the C&D Order, Bob Doane, Doane Engineering, shared site plans of the property, delineating the wetland areas, a plan to remove the driveway and culvert and restore the affected wetlands as well as restoration details (developed by Richard Snarski). As requested, the resumes of Mr. Doane, Engineer/Surveyor and Mr. Snarski, Soil Scientist were distributed to Agency members.

Mr. Doane's proposal includes:

- Removal of crushed stone driveway (approx. 9,000 sf) and culvert.
 - Bob will research the potential need for an Army Corps permit.
- Replacement of excavated material with topsoil to match existing grade.
- Specific seed mixture and mulch will be used along with plantings.
- Work will be performed with an excavator and dump truck – excavated material will be placed directly in the dump truck.
- Banks will be graded to blend with existing banks.
- Mr. Doane is prepared to attend Agency meetings to provide progress reports.
- Mr. Snarski will provide a report at the end of the restoration project and monitoring for 2

growing seasons (Agency members suggested monitoring for 3 growing years as standard practice).

- It is expected that work will be complete by August 2023.

Bob and Randy will communicate regularly, and Attorney Barba reported that Randy will have unfettered access to the property. It was agreed that no vehicles will be parked in the wetland areas overnight.

Eric Davison made the following comments/recommendations/requests:

- Details on the type of sediment fence to be used during the project.
- Details on the hydrology of the wetlands.
- A construction timing sequence.
- Source of topsoil to be used.
 - Weed free.
 - Content of organic matter.
- Characteristics of the stream crossing
 - Details on potential impacts downstream.
 - Details on the watershed size.
 - Status of the stream crossing – Mr. Doane reported that the stream channel is stable, and no erosion was observed downstream.
 - The pipe is 18” (undersized).
- Request for details on the restoration of the stream and a report from a professional stating that there is no long term impact to stream.

Al will meet with Randy to review the documents provided and develop a response to Mr. Doane as discussed this evening.

Attorney Barba reported that the homeowners are committed to restoring the property and requested that litigation be placed “on hold”. Al responded that he would speak with First Selectwoman Janecek and the Town Attorney relative to this request.

AARON MANOR – Set date for Public Hearing – Public Hearing scheduled at the June meeting, June 5, 2023 @ Town Hall.

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

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT

Randy reported:

- He is in contact with the owners of 26 Water Street (Herbery) – no application has yet been submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE – letter received from Audubon Society.

RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS AFTER POSTING OF AGENDA – None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Bellesiles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Bill Bernhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk