

Note: These Minutes are subject to Agency approval at next Regular Meeting.

Chester Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

Regular Meeting, March 6, 2017

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1. Call to Order

The Chester Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency held its regular meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Sally Sanders, Kris Seifert, Kim Senay, Bob Blair and Christine Darnell. Anna Sweeney, Wetlands Compliance Officer, was also present. Vice Chairman Sanders called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Minutes – December 5, 2016 and February 6, 2017 Minutes

It is noted for the record the December 5, 2016 Minutes were approved at the February 6, 2017 Meeting, therefore, no action is required.

Motion by Darnell, second by Senay, to approve February 6, 2017 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved.

3. Audience of Citizens

4. Continued Show Cause Hearing – Chester Airport, 61 Winthrop Road – unpermitted activity within review area

Attorney Matt Ranelli, Charlie Greeney (Facilities Director) and Jodi Chase were present. It is noted for the record that Bob Blair has recused himself from this agenda item as he is an employee of Whelen Engineering.

Vice Chairman Sanders noted a site walk was held. The stabilization in place was working fine and looks really good. There was discussion about the fluidity of the situation and that it needs to be checked on a regular basis. Whelen Aviation has been given permission to move things as they need to to continue control of the sedimentation in place.

Vice Chairman Sanders noted the first plateau was the pile of asphalt. The second plateau was the area of heavy sedimentation. They walked down to the second plateau where there was a significant area of really thick sedimentation. Eric Davison walked all the way to the other end.

Vice Chairman Sanders noted the concern is that water will carry that sedimentation down from that plateau area into the lower area and cause a lot more damage in the

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lower area than is already there. Eric Davison mentioned he saw algaefication and that was an indication that wetlands are not working the way they should be. Algae shouldn't be growing at this point. With that being stated, the Agency asked that sedimentation be removed from that plateau area. At the last meeting the Agency noted it didn't want to cause more damage by removing this sedimentation, but in this situation there is so much sedimentation and its so damaged, if we don't get it out of there, we won't be able to get it back. It was also mentioned that at the point where it comes out, we should see if it will recharge itself on its own. Time will tell. This will need to be looked at over a long period of time and decisions made this evening may need to be changed or modified as time goes along. Sanders also noted they approved removal of the asphalt pile in the first plateau area. Permission was given for this to start at any time.

Attorney Ranelli thanked Vice Chairman Sanders for the summary of the site walk and for the Agency giving its permission to get started immediately to stabilize that area maintaining the status quo until we can figure out how to get to the corrective part of the second plateau. He felt a lot of progress had been made since the meeting. He also noted Mr. Greeney was at the site the next day talking with Jodi Chase about where to put things. A settling basin of crushed stone was installed in the area walking down the gravel road to the left where the water was collecting. Toward the slope they installed about 50 to 75 hay bales lined up along the toe of the slope with an apron for the silt to get caught by the hay bales. This would then run down toward the detention basin. The idea is for the water coming off the slope to get caught by the hay bales and directed down toward that basin installed back in 1991 when the slope was originally put there. Mr. Greeney even did some cleaning out of debris in the basin. The tailings pile at the first plateau has been completely removed. Mr. Greeney has been there since the rain and there is no water going across the road or on to the road so everything is working fine. They will continue to keep silt fence and hay bales on site if needed and to inspect after rain events. Everything will continue to be monitored.

Attorney Ranelli noted the next step is to come up with a plan on how to clean out the second plateau. We will also add a silt fence lower down in the wetland where Eric suggested. Sanders noted there is a silt fence way down at the end. Mr. Greeney noted that silt fence has been there for years. Its old but still functioning. Attorney Ranelli noted they will also start removing some of the silt they can get to right away.

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WCO Sweeney asked if this work would be done by hand. Attorney Ranelli noted by hand was one option and another option would be using a suction vacuum to pump it out. Some areas can be reached by equipment.

Jodi Chase noted all erosion controls are in excellent condition. Mr. Greeney has done a fine job. She noted the improvements she asked for originally have been done. Runoff is no longer moving across that tailings area carrying sediment because of hay bales that were installed. Chase reviewed several photos of the subject areas (hay bales at toe of slope, anti-tracking at base of hay bales, sediment basin that was installed, tailings removed, silt fence, etc.).

Jodi Chase reviewed the silt fence area. She noted the vegetation had been removed at the upper plateau area so the sediment can be removed safely. It was noted the upper plateau area can be reached from the tailings area using a backhoe to pull the sediment out. Chase noted if that was okay with the Agency, work could begin immediately. Members agreed. She also noted in the interim they will work on finding a good means of removing the sediment from the lower plateau. Christine Darnell noted bringing equipment into the lower plateau would mean a lot of damage.

Kim Senay asked if the tailings could be buried on site in a specific location. WCO Sweeney stated the tailings need to be removed.

Attorney Ranelli noted they are in the process of getting the wetlands area flagged. They will return at the next meeting on April 3rd.

There was discussion as to whether the Notice of Violation should be modified. 1) continue non-placement of fill and other materials on the slope adjacent to the airport runway. 2) same. 3) same. 4) change date. 5) begin removal of sedimentation from the 1st plateau as discussed in meeting on March 6th. Attorney Ranelli noted they will have a map available at the next meeting and continue researching options for removal of sedimentation on the second plateau.

Vice Chairman Sanders noted the Agency will meet again on April 3rd. Perhaps there will be a proposal for a permanent solution at that time. She also noted during the summer when that area dries up, it would allow work in that area at the second plateau. Mr. Greeney noted it is drying now because no water is going down there.

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WCO Sweeney noted when she and Christine Darnell visited the site with Mr. Greeney there was runoff in one part of the runway. They should research a more appropriate direction for this runoff. Sanders noted this should be included in the permanent plan.

Motion by Darnell, second by Senay, to modify the Notice of Violation for Chester Airport as discussed during this meeting and to prepare a plan for a permanent solution for drainage from the airport runway slope. Unanimously Approved (it is again noted Bob Blair recused himself from this Agenda item as stated earlier).

Vice Chairman Sanders noted she will verify placement of the additional silt fence at the lower plateau as suggested by Eric Davison. This information will be passed along to Jodi Chase.

5. Chester Airport, 61 Winthrop Road – unpermitted activity within review area
No further discussion at this time.

6. #17-01 – David Miller, 105 Cedar Lake Road – addition to residential dwelling
It was noted Mr. Miller was not present. This will be on the next meeting Agenda as Mr. Miller needed to provide additional information.

7. #17-02 – Town of Chester, Prospect Street – repair retaining wall and drainage
Howard Pfrommer and Matt Carroll from Jacobson & Associates and First Selectwoman Gister were present representing the Town of Chester for the Prospect Street Retaining Wall and Drainage Project.

Mr. Pfrommer reviewed the site location. He noted the reason for the project was the retaining wall on the downstream side of the road was in a serious state of disrepair. The guard rail has been hit several times causing stones to fall out of the wall. It is a safety issue.

Mr. Pfrommer noted the existing stone culvert is 2½' high and 1½' wide. He reviewed the road work involved. The retaining wall will be removed and the roadway will be

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sloped off. There will be some impact to the wetlands. The wetlands lines were depicted on the plan by yellow. The blue was the edge of the wetlands. There will be a permanent easement on the upstream side of the road on one property and a temporary easement on another property. D.O.T. headwall standards will be used on the outlet and inlet side. The inlet side will have wings, the outlet side will be straight across. Mr. Pfrommer reviewed erosion control measures as well as plantings. There will be 33 5'-6' tall trees and shrubs in the embankment. The existing culvert will be replaced with 42" RCP with 2 double catch basins in the lower point of the road. They are not looking to raise the road, but widen it a little. Currently the road goes from 22' to 17' back to 22'. The new road will go from 22' to 20' back to 22'.

Mr. Pfrommer noted to rebuild the wall would double the cost of the project. There is about 750 square feet of wetlands to be disturbed with a temporary impact of another 350 square feet for construction access.

Mr. Pfrommer noted they will be obtaining the following permits – wetlands approval, Section 8-24 Referral from Planning & Zoning, Army Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Office, DEEP Fisheries and Fish & Wildlife Service.

Mr. Pfrommer reviewed photos of the site and explained the work in more detail.

Kim Senay asked if 5 ton boulders with riprap in between could be used. Mr. Pfrommer replied the embankment isn't wide enough to accommodate that size of boulders. Water and ice between the rocks over time wouldn't be good. Perhaps there are other options to look at. Pfrommer noted at some point the road will have to be closed off. This area has already been barricaded off as it is near collapsing.

The goal is to go out to bid in April and work in July and August while school is out. The whole project should take about 2 months to complete.

It was decided to schedule a site walk tentatively on March 18th at 9 AM. WCO Sweeney will check to see if Al and Eric are available to attend.

Vice Chairman Sanders asked what the red area was on the plan. Pfrommer replied it was an area of temporary impact for access.

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There was discussion regarding the catch basins both old and new. These should be on the same cleaning schedule and standards as the new ones in the Main Street Project.

Christine Darnell suggested using a different tree than Sugar Maples.

This will be on the next meeting Agenda for April 3rd.

8. #17-03 – Dan Belisle, 10 Gilbert Hill – construction of shed

Dan Belisle from 10 Gilbert Hill was present. Copies of the application were distributed. Mr. Belisle was advised the Agency needed a couple more copies of the site plan for its records. It was suggested he go to Ciel in Old Saybrook for the copies.

Mr. Belisle reviewed the site plan noting the area where the tent collapsed was where he wanted to put the new shed. It was also noted there is a vernal pool on this property. Vice Chairman Sanders asked what was going to be underneath the shed to catch the drainage and run off. She suggested crushed stone as wood chips will break down and turn to sawdust. Mr. Belisle noted the back yard is all grass with a large bed of ferns.

Kim Senay asked why this couldn't be located away from the wetlands. Belisle indicated it could but it would wreck his backyard. He has young children doing athletics and they play ball there. This location keeps it tucked into the edge of the woods and out of sight.

Property lines were reviewed. The lot has an irregular shape. WCO Sweeney noted this is a very sensitive area. Agency members should look at the site. It was also suggested Mr. Belisle should check with the Zoning Officer to be sure the location is okay with Zoning setbacks.

Mr. Belisle was asked what he would be storing in the shed. He replied he had 2 tractors, a trailer, a wheelbarrow and a very big stump grinding machine. Vice Chairman Sanders noted then these vehicles have oil and gasoline in them next to the wetlands. Belisle noted the shed will have a plywood floor. WCO Sweeney asked if the gravel will be under the whole shed or just around the edge. Christine Darnell

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suggested extending the gravel about 1' to assist in the runoff of water.

A site walk was scheduled for March 18th between 9:30 and 10:00 AM after the above noted site walk. Christine Darnell will call Mr. Belisle and look at the site on her own.

This will be on the Agenda for the next meeting on April 3, 2017.

9. Regulations and Map Modifications – nothing further to report.

10. Wetland Compliance Officer's Report – nothing to report.

11. Correspondence – brochure regarding upcoming Rain Water Seminar.

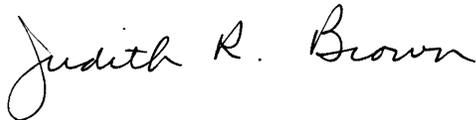
12. Receipt of Applications After Posting of Agenda – none.

13. Any Other Business – none.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Seifert, second by Blair, to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary