

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT INLAND WETLAND & WATERCOURSES
MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
INLAND & WATERCOURSES AGENCY
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2022
Chester Meeting House
Chester, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Bob Blair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included, Sally Sanders, Bill Bernhart, Bob Blair, Kim Senay, Eric Davison, Michael Biale, First Selectman Janecek, Michael Cressman, Ed Meehan, Chairman WPCA, Bill Myers, and Sal and Carol Cancelliere.

MINUTES

Bill Bernhart made a motion to approve the 8/1/22 meeting minutes as presented. Michael Biale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

CONTINUED SHOW CAUSE HEARING - Chester Airport, 61 Winthrop Road – unpermitted activity within review area – No report.

CHESTER AIRPORT - 61 Winthrop Road – unpermitted activity within review area - No report.

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

Halloran & Sage (Town Attorney) forwarded a letter to the property owner on 9/6/22. The letter states that legal action will be pursued by the Town if they do not comply with the Cease and Desist Order by 10/1/22.

All appropriate legal protocols are being followed relative to this property. The property owner ignored the 3 notices sent by the Agency. The next step is to pursue the matter through the courts.

Mr. Cancelliere reported on concerns relative to the pipe restricting flows from the pond and requested clarification on who has the authority to remove the pipe (in the event that the property owners do not comply with the C&D Order). Charlene will ask the Town Attorney if the town may remove the pipe, if the town can issue fines and can the town be reimbursed for legal fees associated with the matter.

Note that the property file has documentation regarding the violations. Any potential real estate transactions will be affected by the violations. In addition, the DOT is aware of the situation in the event that the property owner requests a driveway permit from DOT.

213 MIDDLESEX AVENUE – unpermitted activity in inland wetlands and watercourses and upland review area – No action.

#22-13 CHESTER LAND TRUST – Knotweed Eradication

Michael Cressman updated the Agency on the project and the recommendations made by a consultant/invasive plant specialist/scientist who “walked” the Carini Preserve and recommended a 5 - year course of action to eradicate knotweed. Areas of concern include approximately 300 yards along the bank of the Great Brook. They intend to utilize a stem injection method to eradicate the knotweed. In addition, knotweed will be cut. ARPA funds have been requested to facilitate the project and the request is on the agenda for the upcoming Town Meeting (BOS and BOF have approved the funds). The Land Trust would like to begin the work ASAP.

Note that Eric Davison has reviewed the Land Trust’s application to IW.

Sally Sanders made a motion to approve application #22-13 as presented. Bob Blair seconded the motion. The motion passed with Kim Senay voting “nay”.

Mike Biale made a motion to waive the IW permit fee. Sally Sanders seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE – As discussed above, a letter from Halloran & Sage was received relative to 213 Middlesex Avenue.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sally Sanders made a motion to add to the agenda an amendment to application #22-09 – WPCA Sewer Pipe Replacement Project. Mike Biale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Meehan, WPCA Chairman, provided an update on the sewer replacement project (43-47 Main Street). At the 7/11/22 IW meeting, the Agency approved the permit for the sewer line and manhole repairs based on the use of a crane (less disruptive) to transport equipment and materials across Pattaconk Brook. As the work progressed, a blockage was uncovered located at a critical manhole (manhole 20A). After further investigation and use of video equipment, it was determined that the pipe in this area, installed in 1982, was not laid correctly and was not in alignment with the lines shown on the plans/as-built.

Jacobson re-drew the plans (109 feet; originally thought to be 60 to 70 ft.) and we are awaiting costs estimates for this additional work.

Ed Meehan was available to address comments/questions posed by Agency members.

Sally Sanders made a motion to approve amended application #22-09 as presented. Eric Davison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS AFTER POSTING OF AGENDA – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Eric Davison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Mike Biale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski, Clerk