

CONSERVATION AND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
TOWN OF DEEP RIVER, CONNECTICUT

Town Hall

174 Main Street

Deep River, Connecticut 06417

A regular meeting of the *Deep River Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission* held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at the Deep River Town Hall was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Acting Chairman Tomlinson. Members present: Susan Board, Ron Larsen, Alternate Michael Tomlinson and Alternate/WEO Mark Reyher. Absent: George Atwood, Carmela Balducci, Carol Libby, Alan Mizejeski, John Szymanski. Also present: Nancy Howard, Dylan Elliott, Gary Elliott, and Robert Doane. Alternates Tomlinson and Reyher were seated for absent members.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Susan Board and seconded by Mary Reyher to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 10, 2009 as printed. (3-1) Approved.

Canfield Woods: Dylan Elliott, a member of the Troop 13 Chester/Deep River Boy Scouts was present to discuss his proposal for his Eagle Scout project. He proposes to build a bridge which is located on the yellow trail in Canfield Woods. Dylan noted that he contacted and met with Dana Hill from Essex in Canfield Woods to review the project. Approval is needed from this Commission for the activity. He noted that the existing bridge is two 4x4's which gets icy and he has seen people fall. The subject crossing is the only substantial crossing in Canfield Woods. Dylan noted that he will be meeting with an engineer with Nathan Jacobson & Associates to review the calculations for the bridge. A drawing of the bridge was presented. Dylan stated that a Locust tree will be taken down on the property of a resident by agreement, milled, and he will work on the structure at his home. The structure will then be taken in slabs to Canfield Woods and bolted down. The stringers will be about 8 inches tall by 4 inches thick and the railing will be 36-40 inches off the bridge. The bridge will be an attraction to the area and a benefit to hikers. He noted that a plaque will be placed on the bridge which would include the name of the Inland Wetlands Commission. Dylan noted that a quad would have to be used to transport the bridge into Canfield Woods. With the permission of an adjacent property owner on Rattling Valley Road, access may be made directly into the Woods through the private property with the quad. The bridge location is approx. 200 ft. from the property line. Dylan stated that he would like to start the project in the spring and finish by the summer. He noted that 100 man hours is required to plan and to build the bridge. The Commission scheduled a site walk for Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. The members present were preliminarily in favor of the proposal as presented.

Bettejane Hopkins, 47 Cedar Swamp Road (Map 20, Lot 4): An application was received from Bettejane Hopkins for the purpose of a proposed single family residence with driveway, well, sanitary system and associated grading on property at 47 Cedar Swamp Road. Robert Doane presented the application on behalf of the applicant. The proposal is to split the property into two parcels, creating a rear lot, identified as Parcel B, and constructing a two bedroom house and possibly selling Parcel A with the existing house. The wetlands were flagged by Soil Scientist Richard Snarski, The wetlands line runs through the property. The house, garage, sanitary system, and a portion of the entire 490 ft. driveway are outside of the 100 ft. review area. A 270 ft. section of the driveway is located within the 100 ft. review area. Silt fencing is shown on the plan along the

proposed drive. The site is relatively gently sloping in the front to the road and is flat in the back of the property. Mr. Doane noted that the area is an area of concern identified for a protected species; a Review Request Form has been submitted to the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base. Mr. Doane noted that the existing driveway, which is in rough shape, crosses the stream and goes back to the existing barns on the property. After the proposed split of the property, Parcel A will be 1.47 acres and Parcel B 1.87 acres. Mr. Doane noted that approximately 250 yards of topsoil will be removed for the driveway and approximately 250 yards of gravel will be placed on the site for the driveway. Some of the material removed will be used for filling around the house, which is a wet area, and the area of the sanitary system. Any excess material would be removed from the site. Mr. Doane noted that the western property line is the 100 ft. wetlands setback line from wetlands on the adjacent property off of Cedar Lake Road. Members were interested in holding a site walk of the property. A site walk was scheduled for February 6, 2010 at approx. 10:00 a.m., after the walk in Canfield Woods. A motion was made by Ron Larsen and seconded by Mark Reyher to accept the application by Bettejane Hopkins for consideration at the next regular meeting. (4-0) Voted Unanimously.

New Business:

Canfield Woods: Mark Reyher recommended contacting the State Forester to come and check the Canfield Woods property to discuss the possibility of logging some of the property. He noted that any funds from logging could be put into an account for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining open space. Members present agreed to have Mr. Reyher contact the forester to see if it would be feasible.

Discussion took place regarding the number of copies of the applications which are required in accordance with the Regulations. The Regulations require 10 copies of all application materials be submitted unless otherwise directed in writing by the Commission. A motion was made by Susan Board and seconded by Ron Larsen to amend the application form to require that all applicants submit one original and three copies of the application materials. (4-0) Voted Unanimously.

Enforcement: A letter dated January 9, 2010 was received from Shirley Rutan to WEO Mark Reyher in response to a letter of violation which was sent to Ms. Rutan by the WEO for activity on the edge of the wetlands. Ms. Rutan noted that her property does not border the river or have access to the river. Ms. Rutan also made reference to unprecedented flooding which occurs on Village Street and West Elm Street as a result of the dam located on Spring and Main Streets. Mary Reyher acknowledged that the violation letter was sent to the wrong property owner and will contact Ms. Rutan to apologize. Mr. Reyher noted that the correct property involved in the possible violation is the property of Stanley & Barbara Lunn at 39 Village Street. He noted that it has been reported that an elevated platform has been constructed on the edge of the Deep River. A letter of violation will be sent to the Lunn's requesting that they appear before the Commission to review the activity that has taken place. No permits were obtained for the platform which was constructed. Mr. Reyher noted that the First Selectman had received complaints regarding the activity on the edge of the water and reports of concern that the structure will wash away. Members noted that a structure would not be considered an as of right activity.

Financial Report/Payment of Bills: The following bills were received: Nancy Howard, clerical services, 8 hours; Hartford Courant, legal advertising, \$23.76; and Mary Reyher, enforcement for July through December 2009, 106 hours and 167.5 miles. A motion was made by Susan Board and seconded by Ron Larsen to approve payment of the bills as submitted. (4-0) Voted Unanimously. A memo was received from the First Selectman requesting proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2010/2011. The budget was reviewed and questions were raised regarding the Middlesex Soil Conservation Service annual fee. An inquiry will be made to see if it is a requirement for the town and the services which are provided.

A motion was made by Susan Board and seconded by Mark Reyher to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. (4-0) Voted Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Howard
Recording Secretary