



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Inland Wetlands Commission

29 North Street • P.O. Box 203 • Roxbury, CT 06783-0203

ROXBURY INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dirienzo called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Russell Dirienzo, Andy Engel, Sue Fitch and Rob Horrigan

Alternates Present: Rose Krantz

Others Present: Paul Szymanski, Leland Torrence, Peter Tavino, Jeff Sharpe, and Brian McDonald

SEATING OF MEMBERS

Chairman Dirienzo seated members Engel, Dirienzo, Horrigan, Fitch and Alternate Krantz was seated for Smoliga.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting, August 23, 2016

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the 08/23/16 Regular meeting. By Engel, seconded by Horrigan and carried 3-0-2. Fitch and Krantz abstained.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

Oberkirch – 127 River Road – Single-family dwelling

Paul Szymanski of AH Howland came forward with a plan dated 8/18/16 entitled Proposed Site Development Plan. John Smoliga's report from his site walk was read.

Andy Engel noted his concern with the 20% grade on the driveway and lack of drainage. He questioned why the house needs to be so close to the river. Sue Fitch was also concerned with the closeness of house site to the Shepaug. She was concerned with a loss of the mature trees for the driveway and along the river bank which help stabilize the soil. She asked if the highest point of the river was measured with regard to the setback.

Paul Szymanski clarified that there is no disturbance within 50 feet of the river and all the trees will stay in that area. The intent is to leave the property in its natural state. The runoff will go to a recharge system. Minimal earthwork is required because the work is within 1 foot of the existing grade. He explained that they are retaining most of the trees. The existing stone wall will remain to act as a level spreader. Ms. Oberkirch would like to keep the driveway as dirt.

Rob Horrigan noted concerns with the fact that the driveway that it does not follow the old wood road. Mr. Szymanski explained that the intent is to bank the low side, but he can make adjustments to the plan to cut and fill. Mr. Horrigan also noted his concern with the potential thermal impact to the Shepaug and questioned why the house could not be slid back away from the river.

Mr. Szymanski explained that by building closer to the resource it is found that most are more sensitive to the impact. This site is for the enjoyment of the river. He will look into a potential for thermal impact and also cutting and filling for the driveway.

Mr. Dirienzo explained that once a plan like this is approved it is very difficult to enforce afterward. This river is the

most important resource to Roxbury. He would like to see a better buffer to protect the river. He has viewed the site and feels there are feasible and prudent alternatives. Mr. Dirienzo noted that there is an alternative which has been approved in a previous plan.

Mr. Szymanski explained that the drainage plan is sized for a 4 inch storm, but can be sized for a 100 year flood if necessary. Chairman Dirienzo advised that he is going to ask Sean Hayden to review this application.

Ms. Fitch reminded the group that part of their charge is to protect public and private use and values.

Leyland Torrence was hired to site this house and spoke about the process that the owner has been through to find the right location this house. She felt she had made a mistake with the first house site.

Russell Dirienzo reported that he spoke with the Land Trust and they are not opposed to the proposed location of the house. He spoke about the 100 year flood plain and the protection standards that must be met. He would want to know that the 50 foot setback was protected. Paul Szymanski noted that he will look to ensure future owners will continue to protect the river. Mr. Szymanski agreed to forward all the information regarding this proposal to Sean Hayden for his review.

NEW BUSINESS

Tavino – 1055 Washington Woodbury Road – Geothermal borehole, curtain drain and brick pavers

Peter Tavino, Professional Engineer, came forward with this application for one geothermal well. All activity is outside the buffer zone. Mr. Tavino described the process for installation. A double layer of silt fence will be used for erosion control. Photos of the site were distributed. He explained that this will be a combination of geothermal with a curtain drain below. He confirmed that the stream is below the area, but this will not cut off the water supply to the wetlands as it is behind the house.

MOTION: To approve the application of Tavino – 1055 Washington Woodbury Road – Geothermal borehole, curtain drain and brick pavers as a nonregulated activity and to return the fee to the applicant. By Dirienzo, seconded by Horrigan and carried 5-0.

McDonald – 6 Baker Road – Accessory Building

Mr. Brian McDonald came forward as agent for this application and explained that this activity was previously approved; however, the time on the permit has run out. Mr. Dirienzo remembered this application as not being a problem. The Commission viewed the map dated 9/20/16 entitled Site Plan by Brian Neff. It was noted that this activity is 33 feet from the wetlands, but was approved because it was found there would be no impact and there was no alternative location.

Mr. McDonald agreed to stake the corners and the Commission will view the site individually. Brian McDonald will notify the LUO when it is staked.

WEO REPORT

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M. By Engel, seconded by Horrigan and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tai Kern

Tai Kern, Secretary

Minutes are filed subject to approval by the Roxbury Inland Wetlands Commission

cc: B. Henry, R. Dirienzo, P. Hurlbut, J. Conway, G. McTaggart and G. Steinman.